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Trojans' QB
Matt Leinart

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Kobe Bryant

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Yokota airmen return from fighting terror war **Page 3**

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PHOTOS BY KAREN J. TOMASIK/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Left: Senior Airman Kevin Graves, of the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron, is welcomed home from deployment by his daughter Jaden during a welcoming ceremony Thursday at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Above: Approximately 300 Yokota family members and co-workers cheer for the 90 airmen returning from deployment Thursday. The airmen also were greeted by wing leadership while the Air Force Band of the Pacific-Asia welcomed them home with patriotic music.



Vice President Dick Cheney

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Sen. Zell Miller
D-Ga., Keynote speaker

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Elizabeth Smart kidnapping: Brian David Mitchell pleaded not guilty in Salt Lake City on Thursday to kidnapping and other charges in the knifepoint abduction of Elizabeth Smart.

Mitchell, a street preacher and self-proclaimed prophet, answered "not guilty" six times for each of the charges read to him by the judge. Trial was set for the first week in February.

Mitchell and his wife, Wanda Barzee, are both charged with kidnapping the then-14-year-old from her bedroom in 2002. The girl was allegedly taken into the foothills near the home, sexually assaulted and kept as Mitchell's second wife.

North Dakota gay marriage: North Dakotans gathered enough signatures to force a November vote on a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, the secretary of state said Wednesday.

A petition circulated by the North Dakota Family Alliance had 42,093 legal signatures, considerably more than the 25,688 needed to put the idea on the November ballot, Al Jaeger said.

Peterson trial: Prosecutors say Scott Peterson was so worried his wife's body would surface in San Francisco Bay that he visited the area several times after reporting her disappearance. Defense lawyers say he was simply checking on the search efforts.

Prosecutors called numerous police witnesses Wednesday who testified Peterson in the weeks after his pregnant wife Laci was reported missing on Dec. 24, 2002. They described how Peterson visited the Berkeley Marina three times — on Jan. 5, Jan. 6 and Jan. 9 — as police searched the bay for Laci's body.

Tropical Storm Gaston: Tropical Storm Gaston will likely wipe out the \$16 million that Virginia has earmarked for emergency road repairs, the state Department of Transportation said.

VDOT estimates that repairing wrecked roads and bridges will cost \$10 million to \$20 million. State highway crews continued working Thursday to open about 120 roads that Gaston blocked.

War on terrorism

NATO in Afghanistan: NATO is close to meeting a commitment to bolster its peacekeeping force in Afghanistan with extra troops and aircraft to help provide security during presidential election there in Octo-



Milosevic trial: The U.N. war crimes tribunal at The Hague imposed two defense lawyers on Slobodan Milosevic in Thursday's effort to end repeated trial delays and because doctors have warned that representing himself threatens the former Yugoslav strongman's health. The tribunal's judges named British attorneys Steven Kay and Gillian Higgins, until now court observers ensuring fair proceedings, as Milosevic's defense counsels. They will take over the case from Sept. 7 when his first witnesses are due to be called.

ber, allied officials said Wednesday.

Officials said a force of 5,000 would be nearly doubled ahead of the election, as planned, although that will include a battalion of U.S. troops stationed outside Afghanistan as an "over the horizon" force ready to intervene if there is trouble.

World

Gibraltar talks: Officials of Spain and Gibraltar reshaped various issues in dispute at their highest-level meeting in several years, both sides confirmed Thursday.

But spokesmen declined to say whether progress was made on Spain's efforts to recover the British colony at its southern tip, which celebrated 300 years of British rule last month.

The recently elected Socialist government of Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero was irritated by Gibraltar's an-

niversary celebration.

Clergy sex abuse: Pope John Paul II assured American bishops from New England on Thursday that he supports their efforts to address the damage wrought by clerical sex abuse, acknowledging the scandal "cast a shadow" on the Church.

The pope urged them to encourage their flock to persevere in their faith and asked the bishops to be "strongly supportive" of those priests suffering from "the much-publicized failings" of some of their fellow clergymen.

South Korea nukes: The U.N. nuclear watchdog is investigating a secret uranium-enrichment experiment that South Korean scientists conducted four years ago, U.N. and South Korean officials said Thursday.

The single experiment in early 2000 was revealed in a report South Korea presented last month to the Vienna, Austria-based International Atomic Energy Agency, the Science and Technology Ministry said in a statement.

Afghan fighting: Militants armed with guns and rockets attacked Afghan troops manning a checkpoint in a Taliban stronghold, injuring three soldiers before American forces came to their aid, the U.S. military said Thursday.

In another incident, a rocket ignited a fuel tanker outside an American base near the Pakistan border, an Afghan official said. It was unclear if anyone was hurt.

Chalabi case: An Iraqi judge will decide as soon as Thursday whether to allow the counter-terroring case against former Iraq Governing Council member Ahmed Chalabi to go ahead.

Speaking to reporters later, Chalabi said that the warrant had been downgraded to a court summons and the charges themselves had been dropped. Al-Maliki agreed that the warrant had been reduced but said the charges against Chalabi were still pending Wednesday night.

Business

Halliburton investigation: Halliburton says an internal investigation has found that a consortium it later took over had once considered bribing Nigerian officials to win an energy contract.

Documents found during the investigation of the \$180 million bribery scandal suggested the payments were discussed at least 10 years ago, before Halliburton took the lead of the multinational business group TSC.

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PHOTOS BY KAREN J. TOMASIN/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Above: Senior Airman Frank Jenkins of the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron is welcomed home from a three-month deployment by his son Ethan during a welcoming ceremony Thursday at Yokota Air Base, Japan. **Right:** Some of the approximately 300 Yokota family members and co-workers on hand for the homecoming eagerly wait to be reunited with their loved ones and friends.



Airmen return home from war on terror

Yokota troops greeted with joy and relief after three-month deployment

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Troops from Yokota and Kadana Air Bases were back on familiar turf Thursday, fresh off a deployment in which they boosted forces fighting the war on terrorism primarily in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A passenger plane routed straight from Southwest Asia stopped first at Kadana Air Base on Okinawa, then touched down at Yokota just before 4 p.m. In all, about 125 airmen returned to the Pacific.

Most left three months ago, as part of a scheduled rotation within the Air Force's Aerospace Expeditionary Force cycle. All filled various support roles in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, spread across the Middle East region.

The servicemembers, decked out in desert battle-dress uniforms, emerged from the plane one by one at Yokota as a public-address announcer reeled off 90 names.

After making their way through a line of senior military officials led by Col. Mark Schissler, the 374th Airlift Wing commander, they poured onto a section of the flight line just behind Building 400, where they were greeted by co-workers, family and friends.

"This is great," said Senior Airman Danielle Ring of the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron. "The flight seemed very, very long. Everybody was just anxious and excited about getting back home."

Jennifer Allar, cradling her 2-year-old son, Ethan, couldn't

See more local stories on Page 6

wait to get a glimpse of her husband, Derek. She said the last 90 days included a few nervous moments, especially when news from Iraq hit the airwaves.

"I'm paranoid," she said. "I'm always checking the news, Internet and TV — just to make sure everything's OK."

"I'm very excited to see him. This is his second deployment. The first time, [Ethan] was a baby."

When Derek Allar, a senior airman with the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron, finally located his family Thursday, the initial reunion between him and his son was a bit awkward.

"My son acted kind of scared at first," Jennifer Allar said. "I guess it's because Daddy looks a little different."

Added Derek Allar, "My son: He's huge. It's just good to be home. It was a long trip but it's good to get back."

Yoko Morgan, with 4-year-old daughter Alicia in tow, tried to maintain composure while waiting for her husband, Stefan, a technical sergeant with the 374th Services Division, to step off the plane.

"I want to cry," she said. "That's why I'm wearing sunglasses right now, hiding my face."

"I was worried about him, watching TV and the news. I'm just glad he's back safe."

Heidi Reed said she tried to keep herself occupied while her

husband, Staff Sgt. Marcus Reed, a 374th Civil Engineer Squadron member, was deployed.

"It's a nervous feeling," she said. "It doesn't feel 'real' right now. It's starting to be real."

"I work full time, so I stayed pretty busy. I didn't not watch the news, but I tried not to be too worried."

Several squadrons and agencies were represented in the deployment, including civil engineer, communications, mission support, wing staff, medical, logistic readiness, maintenance, aircraft maintenance, operational support, air postal, comptroller, weather, security forces, contracting and services.

While downrange, all personnel worked 12-14 hour shifts seven days a week.

"That was the worst part. It was pretty bad, pretty tough. But it feels great to be back," said Airman 1st Class James Thompson, standing next to his wife, Michelle, and 4-year-old son Cole. "I'm more nervous than anything, just seeing them again. It's great seeing my son. He looks a little taller."

Airman 1st Class Jeff Galdikas of the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron, an unmarried servicemember, was among those participating in the mandatory two-week leave period granted the returning troops.

A few of his buddies turned out to greet him.

"Half our shop was over there with us," Galdikas said. "I'm just looking forward to getting back here and hanging out with my friends."



Staff Sgt. Gerald Benitez of the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron embraces his wife, Milanie, and daughter, Abby Mei, during the Yokota welcoming ceremony Thursday.

E-mail Vince Little at: littlevp@strips.osd.mil

French envoys plead for release of hostages

BY KIM HOUSEGO

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — French envoys held crisis talks with Muslim clerics in Iraq on Thursday in a desperate bid to free two kidnapped journalists as a militant group released a video purportedly showing the killing of three Turkish hostages and warning foreigners to leave the country.

Representatives of the French Council for the Muslim Faith, which serves as a link to President Jacques Chirac, met with leaders of an influential Sunni clerical organization with alleged ties to insurgents at a Baghdad mosque and urged them to intervene.

"Journalists have never been enemies of any people," said Abdallah Zekri, a French council official. "Free them. But free them whilst we are here. Their families are suffering, their children are in pain."

After the session, the envoys expressed hope the men would be released, but Sheikh Abdul-Sattar Abdul-Jabbar, a member of the clerical Muslim Scholars Association, said that his group does not have any proof that the two hostages are still alive.

"Until now we don't have any contact, whether direct or indirect, with the kidnappers. The only contact is the appeal we made through the media asking for the release," Abdul-Jabbar said.

Nevertheless, Zekri said: "There are much more reasons to trust in a serene, positive attitude on the part of the situation rather than the contrary."

Ambassador Bernard Bolelet has received confirmation that the two French journalists are alive and well, a spokesman for the French Embassy in Baghdad said Thursday. The spokesman declined to provide further details.

A militant group calling itself "The Islamic Army of Iraq" said it had kidnapped veteran French reporters Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot and was demanding France lift its ban on Islamic head scarves in public schools.

Muslim leaders in France, who have largely opposed the law but denounced the hostage-taking, urged calm as millions of French students opened the school year Thursday with the new law in effect. It was not immediately clear whether any girls defied the law by wearing head scarves.

Although the law bans students from wearing apparel like the Jewish skull cap and large Christian crosses, it clearly targets head scarves, viewed as a sign of rising Muslim fundamentalism and a threat to modern-day France's secular society.

Since the militants released a video Saturday saying they had kidnapped the men, the French



Abdallah Zekri, a member of the French Islamic delegation, appeals to kidnappers Thursday to release two French hostages at a news conference in the Um al-Qura mosque in Baghdad.

government has been working furiously for their release.

French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier was in Qatar on Thursday after high-level talks in Cairo, Egypt, and Amman, Jordan. It was not known whether he planned to travel on to Baghdad, where a French special envoy has been dispatched to pursue back-channel contacts with the hostage-takers.

After the meeting at the Baghdad mosque, Sheikh Harith al-Dhari of the Muslim Scholars Association, which is believed to have links to Sunni insurgents, called for the immediate release of the French hostages.

"I appeal to the kidnappers to release the hostages immediately, immediately. I have never used the word immediately before, but I am using it in appreciation for this [French] delegation," he told reporters.

The meeting Thursday came as pan-Arab television station Al-Jazeera reported that it had received a video from a militant group in Iraq linked to al-Qaida that showed three Turkish hostages being killed.

The station said it had a statement claiming responsibility from Tawhid and Jihad, a group linked to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian militant held responsible for a string of bombings, kidnappings and other attacks in Iraq.

The station broadcast only part of the video, but not the footage showing the killings. It did not say how the three were killed.

The brief segment broadcast showed three men sitting on the floor with three masked men, two of them armed, standing behind them. One of the masked men read a statement.

"The time of forgiveness has gone. You have nothing left but

killing and beheading," said the brief printed Arabic statement, which Al-Jazeera showed on its screen.

The video coincided with the discovery by Iraqi police of the bodies of two Turkish citizens and an unidentified man at a rural farm site in northern Iraq.

It could not be immediately confirmed whether the bodies belonged to the men in the video. Police said they were only able to identify two of the men, Majeed Mohammed and Yalaya Qadir, both of Turkish nationality.

The Foreign Ministry in Ankara and the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad both said they had no information.

Militants waging a violent 16-month insurgency in Iraq have increasingly turned to kidnapping foreigners here as part of an effort to drive out coalition forces and contractors. Other groups have taken hostages in hopes of extorting ransom, sometimes making their greed under a cloak of politics.

In recent days, a chorus of worldwide Muslim voices — from human rights groups to hardline religious clerics — pleaded for the release of the French hostages in an unprecedented display of unity. The vigorous French efforts to secure the release of the journalists came as another militant group released seven foreign truck drivers Wednesday, whom they held hostage for six weeks, after receiving a half-million-dollar ransom payment.

Meanwhile, in Fallujah, angry crowds denounced the United States as they mourned the victims of a U.S. airstrike on an alleged militant safehouse that killed 17 people, including three children, and left a gaping six-yard crater.

"There is only one God, Allah!" crowds chanted at the Fallujah General Hospital, where the bombing casualties were brought before dawn Thursday. A blanket filled with body parts could be seen lying on the ground, while relatives loaded corpses into the back of a pickup truck for burial.

The U.S. military said it had carried out a precision strike late Wednesday on a safehouse in Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad, used by followers of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian militant believed responsible for bombings, kidnappings and other violence in Iraq.

Witnesses said the strike hit a residential house in the southern neighborhood of al-Jubail.

Dr. Ahmed Hamid, of Fallujah General Hospital, said the bodies of civilians, including three children, had been brought to the hospital. An Associated Press reporter at the scene saw eight more bodies pulled from the rubble.



Kurish politician Fuad Masum, the newly elected president of the Iraqi National Council, left, talks to Salma al-Khafaji on Wednesday during the council's first meeting in Baghdad.

Iraq National Council seated amid more mortar attacks

BY MARIAM FAM

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A 10-member transitional assembly intended to serve as a watchdog over the interim Iraqi government until January elections convened for the first time Wednesday at a ceremony in Baghdad marked by mortar attacks and differences among delegates.

The swearing-in ceremony of the National Council was the final step in putting together a caretaker administration after sovereignty was returned to Iraq and interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi took power June 28.

But before the ceremony had even begun, a debate broke out over the wording of the oath of office that was only resolved after a round of bargaining.

Members then walked up to the podium in groups of 10 to take the oath, standing against a backdrop of five Iraqi flags and a banner that read: "For a new Iraq."

The assembly "is an important and positive step toward achieving and realizing the dreams of the Iraqi people," said Mohammed Bahr al-Uloom, who headed the event.

The mechanism and timing of choosing the council's president emerged as one of the main sticking points.

After hours of speeches and debates, members finally picked Fuad Masum, an ethnic Kurd who last month headed a national conference of 1,300 Iraqis that chose many of the assembly's

members, to lead the body in a last-minute show of hands.

The council has the power to approve the national budget and veto some government decisions with a two-thirds majority vote.

Masum said the exchanges and loaded discussions were a sign that democracy was taking root in Iraq. "The discussions were serious and heated... this is an indication of a democratic atmosphere," Masum said, adding that the vote was the result "a legal and legitimate process that no one objected to."

Masum was seen by many delegates both as a competent leader and, as a Kurd, able to provide an ethnic balance within the caretaker administration that also includes Alawi, a Shiite Arab, and interim President Ghazi al-Yawer, a Sunni Arab.

Several prominent political figures failed to show up, including the leaders of the country's two main Kurdish parties, Jalal Talabani and Massoud Barzani, as well as an influential Shiite leader, Abdel Aziz al-Hakim. Masum said some of those absent were sick, abroad or busy.

The council also set up an 11-member committee to review and revise a draft establishing the assembly's regulations.

As the meeting convened, several mortar rounds exploded near the convention center, inside the heavily guarded Green Zone enclave, wounding one person, the U.S. military said. Two rounds later landed in the Green Zone itself, sending up a plume of gray smoke.

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Hostages still captive in Russia school

BY MIKE ECKEL

The Associated Press

BESLAN, Russia — Camouflaged security agents carried babies to safety after militants holding hundreds of hostages at a school released at least 26 women and children Thursday, and officials expressed hope that negotiations would bring more progress in the standoff in southern Russia.

But a crowd of hostages' relatives keeping vigil outside the school was shaken when a pair of explosions went off just ahead of the release. Officials said militants fired rocket-propelled grenades at two cars that got too close to the school. Officials said neither car was hit, but reporters said they saw a gutted car that apparently had been hit, about 100 yards from the school.

The developments came after a night of telephone negotiations between Russian authorities and the militants, who stormed the school Wednesday, rounding up hundreds of children and adults into a gym and threatening to blow up the building if police launch an assault.

Local official Lev Dzugayev said 26 women and children of various ages were released and called their freedom "the first success," expressing hope for further progress in negotiations.

Dzugayev also said his earlier statement that 354 hostages were seized might have been too low, and many in the anxious crowds in Beslan said they believed the number was much higher. "Putin: at least 800 people are being held hostage," read a sign held up for television cameras.

Dzugayev has said between 15 and 24 militants were thought to be in the school, which had students from grades one to 11. Also taken hostage in the standoff were some parents who were bringing their children to school while carrying with them babies or preschoolers.

The hostage-taking in Beslan, a town of about 30,000 in the southern region of North Ossetia, appeared to be the latest in a string of attacks connected to the war in nearby Chechnya.

Security forces surrounded the building,



A member of the Russian military carries a baby after some women and children were released by militants holding hostages in a school in Beslan, North Ossetia, Russia.

and militants perched a sniper on an upper floor. Since the seizure, militants have refused offers to deliver food and water to the school and are demanding the release of fighters detained over a series of attacks on police facilities in the nearby republic of Ingushetia.

Law enforcement sources in North Ossetia and Ingushetia, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the hostage takers were believed to include Chechens, Ingush, Russians and at least one North Ossetian.

In his first public comment on the standoff, President Vladimir Putin pledged to do everything possible to save the hostages' lives. "We understand these acts are not

only against private citizens of Russia but against Russia as a whole," he said. "What is happening in North Ossetia is horrible."

Officials at the crisis headquarters said the releases came after mediation by Russian Aushiev, an Afghan war veteran and former president of the neighboring Ingushetia region who is a respected figure in Russia's troubled North Caucasus region.

As Dzugayev announced some of the releases, a crowd of relatives swarmed around him, trying to find out if their loved ones were among those freed.

The attackers demanded — and received — talks with a prominent pediatri-

cian, Leonid Roshal, who aided hostages during the deadly seizure of a Moscow theater in 2002.

After contacts with the militants, Roshal said late Thursday that the captors had repeated their rejection of food, water and medicine for the hostages. He warned that an unsuccessful outcome of the hostage crisis "would mean war" in the region, and appealed to Chechens, Ingush and Ossetians to avoid bloodshed.

Valery Andreyev, the Federal Security Service's chief in North Ossetia, seemed to rule out the immediate use of force against the hostage-takers.

"There is no alternative to dialogue," the ITAR-Tass news agency quoted him as saying. "One should expect long and tense negotiations."

Sporadic gunfire chattered in the area through the night, keeping the crowds of relatives around the school on edge.

The drama at the school came with memories still sharp from the deadly end to last major hostage-taking battle on Chechens. In 2002, Chechen militants seized a Moscow theater, holding hundreds inside. That standoff ended when police pumped an unidentified knockout gas into the building — but the gas was responsible for almost all of the 129 hostage deaths.

Gennady Gudkov, a retired Federal Security Service colonel, said there is little chance that authorities will resort to a knockout gas this time, particularly since medical experts said it tended to have a stronger effect on children.

The militants' storming of the school came a day after a suspected suicide bomber blew himself up outside a Moscow subway station, killing nine people, and just over a week after 90 people died in plane crashes that are suspected to have been caused by bombers also linked to Chechnya.

The recent bloodshed is a blow to Putin, who pledged five years ago to crush Chechnya's rebels but has since seen the insurgents increasingly strike civilian targets beyond the republic's borders.

Malaysian politician freed from prison

BY SEAN YOONG

The Associated Press

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia — Jailed former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim left court a free man after Malaysia's top court overturned his sodomy conviction on Thursday — six years to the day after his removal from office triggered the country's worst political crisis.

A Federal Court panel ruled 2-1 to reverse the conviction against Anwar, who was once considered the heir apparent of his mentor-turned-rival, then Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad. But Mahatir fired him, touching off widespread political turmoil.

Mahatir's successor, Prime Minister Ahmad Abdullah Badawi, had been expected to take a harder line against Anwar and put the divisive issue behind Malaysia after he took office last year. Anwar told reporters that his convictions had been "highly politically motivated" but that he bore no ill will toward Mahatir, who retired 10 months ago.

"I bear no malice against him. Let him retire," Anwar said. "I feel vindicated. This is all about justice."

The United States and international human rights groups had called Anwar a political prisoner.

The U.S. Embassy issued a statement saying it was "gratifying to see that justice has now been

served."

The combative Mahatir was unrepentant, telling reporters that he was "mildly surprised" by the ruling. He rejected accusations that he had orchestrated a judicial conspiracy to frame Anwar.

"I'm not going to lose any sleep," Mahatir said. "I still believe that he's guilty. My conscience is clear."

Anwar is expected to travel to Germany for surgery to treat a back injury, partly blamed on a beating by Malaysia's then police chief following his arrest in 1998 after leading a massive anti-Mahatir demonstration.

Judge Abdul Hamid Mohamad read out the verdict over 1½ hours. As it became apparent that Anwar, 57, would be freed, the prisoner — wearing a neck brace and confined to a wheelchair — exchanged excited glances with family members and gave a thumbs-up sign.

"We are not prepared to uphold the conviction," Abdul Hamid said. "We therefore allow this appeal and set aside the conviction and the sentence."

Abdul Hamid said the conviction was flawed because the chief prosecution witness, Azizah Abubakar, had repeatedly changed the dates that he claimed Anwar had had sex with him. Azizah had been the driver for Anwar's wife.

Anwar credited Abdullah for not interfering with the judiciary.

"You've got to recognize the fact that his predecessor wouldn't have made this judgment possible," Anwar said.

Anwar has long claimed that the convictions were rigged to prevent him from challenging Mahatir for power.

U.S., Sudan support U.N.'s force demand for Darfur

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's demand for an expanded international force in Sudan's Darfur region got immediate support from the United States — and an unexpected positive reaction from the Sudanese government.

Sudan's U.N. Ambassador Elfath Mohamed Erwa told reporters late Wednesday that the government has no objection to increasing the African Union force monitoring an April cease-fire that has largely been ignored. It currently has about 80 military observers, protected by just over 300 soldiers.

"The secretary-general is speaking about the monitoring, and increasing the force for the monitoring. That's fine with us," he said. "Whether it is 300 or 3,000, if it helps, that's fine."

But Erwa said Sudan would oppose an international force with another mandate, for example to disarm militias or other

groups because that could lead to military confrontations.

Annan did not say how large a force he wanted, but U.N. diplomats said a U.N. plan presented to the African Union called for about 3,000 peacekeepers. The 53-nation African organization, led by Nigeria, is expected to make a recommendation in the coming days, diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

U.N. Ambassador John Danforth said Washington's main concern is to get outsiders into Darfur soon.

"I tell them monitors," he said. "The issue is getting a substantial number of people in there, and getting in there as quickly as possible... (with) people who have credibility in the eyes of the people of Darfur."

The secretary-general urged the speedy deployment of an expanded force in a report to the U.N. Security Council Wednesday which said Sudan's government has not stopped attacks on "terrorized and traumatized" civilians in Darfur or disarmed murdering militias.

S. Korea probes civilian deaths in Korean War

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO
AND JENNIFER KLECKNER

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — Heeding a call to probe abuses and crimes possibly hidden by decades of authoritarian rule, the South Korean military this week launched a special committee to investigate civilian deaths in the Korean War.

While the investigation will first focus on South Korean troops, officials said Thursday, the committee also likely would dig into accusations against foreign troops, including U.S. forces.

The investigations result from South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun's call for government agencies to open records and release information on mysterious deaths unresolved from past decades.

"As President Roh commanded, we're

taking it a step further with this committee and will start to investigate crimes committed by the military during the war," said Brig. Gen. Nam Dae-yeon, Ministry of National Defense spokesman.

"At the moment, we are focusing on the ROK Army. However, investigating crimes committed by foreign soldiers is still up in the air. I expect the investigation process for the ROK Army crimes to take around one month."

Reports of several "massacres" of civilians during the 1950-53 Korean War have surfaced in recent years.

Four years ago, an Associated Press reporting team won a Pulitzer Prize for its series on No Gun Ri, where U.S. forces allegedly killed hundreds of civilians fleeing south during the war's early days.

The articles alleged U.S. commanders ordered their troops to fire intentionally on large groups of civilians, fearing North Korean infiltrators were among their ranks.

A Pentagon investigation of the incident disputed many of the findings, including that civilians were targeted intentionally, leading to widespread protests in Seoul.

According to Ministry of National Defense officials, the new inquiries will focus on 10 incidents in which large numbers of civilians reportedly were killed.

Separate investigative teams also will look into dozens of recent suicides by South Korean soldiers. In many cases, family members have accused military officials of covering up wrongdoing which led to the soldiers' deaths.

MND officials said that together, the investigations are meant to quell public suspicion of the military, which backed authoritarian South Korean regimes for much of the past fifty years. The investigation committee, headed by the vice defense minister, will include both military and civilian investigators, officials said.

Roh's call for investigations caused controversy in part because they could entail examining murky periods in South Korea's history. His move to order investigations of Koreans accused of collaborating with or working for the Japanese before the World War II occupation has caused waves.

Roh made the call for the investigations Aug. 15, the day South Korea celebrates the end of Japanese occupation.

E-mail: Joseph Giordono and Jennifer Kleckner at: koreabureau@stripsides.osd.mil

Camp Zama officials say they are ready for alleged deserter Jenkins

BY ERIC TALMADGE

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Sgt. Charles Robert Jenkins, it's time to report for duty.

Responding to Jenkins' pledge to turn himself in four decades after leaving his Army unit and vanishing into North Korea, U.S. military officials say they're ready to put the frail 64-year-old back in uniform, and he's a haircut, set him up in on-base housing — and then try him for desertion.

"We're always ready to take in deserters and receive them," said Maj. John Amberg, spokesman for the U.S. Army, Japan headquarters at Camp Zama, just south of Tokyo.

Jenkins ended months of silence this week, issuing a statement saying he'd turn himself over to Army officials at Camp Zama as soon as he's deemed fit enough. He's been hospitalized in Tokyo since he was flown here in July on a plane chartered by Japan's government. Japanese media have speculated Jenkins could be out of the hospital within days.

Once he turns himself in, Jenkins would be treated like any other E-5, or sergeant.

Until discharged, he'd be assigned to a new unit, receive pay and other benefits and be able to live on base with his family. He would only be put in custody if considered a flight risk, dangerous or likely to tamper with witnesses.

But the Jenkins case is anything but ordinary.

His wife, Hitomi Soga, is one of more than a dozen Japanese kidnapped by North Korean agents in the 1970s and '80s and forced to turn the North's spies. Seen as a tragic hero in Japan, she was repatriated after a landmark 2002 summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. Jenkins, fearing prosecution, stayed behind with her two daughters.

Facing an outpouring of sympathy for Soga, Koizumi personally

ally led the effort to reunite the family in Japan.

Public sentiment here strongly favors leniency for Jenkins so the family can live together. Koizumi told Wednesday in "continuing to do all we can to help."

Accused of leaving his Army patrol along the two Koreas' border in January 1965, Jenkins faces charges of desertion, aiding the enemy and encouraging other soldiers to desert or to be captured.

The maximum penalty for peacetime desertion is life in prison.

But punishment can also be as light as a dishonorable discharge.

Jenkins has been meeting frequently with Army lawyer Capt. James Culp in recent weeks and is expected to seek some sort of pretrial agreement that would guarantee light punishment in return for information on the North's activities.

Leniency, however, might not sit well with the military community and veterans groups, particularly when U.S. soldiers are braving combat in Iraq.

The charges against Jenkins also don't necessarily paint a sympathetic picture.

Jenkins, originally of Rich Square, N.C., allegedly participated in broadcasts across the border in recent weeks, urging other U.S. soldiers to desert. He acted in anti-U.S. propaganda films and is believed to have taught for two years at a training center for North Korean intelligence agents.

Suspensions have also been raised that he might have been involved in interrogating U.S. sailors taken by the North when it captured the Navy ship USS Pueblo in 1968. One sailor was killed and 82 taken prisoner. Captive crew members were beaten with pieces of lumber, burned on radiators and had their teeth kicked out by North Korean soldiers.

If it's held at Camp Zama, a judge will have to be flown in, since no one stationed at the base is qualified to preside.

Man squirts milk from eye, claims record

BY JAMES K. HELICKE

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Iker Yilmaz might just hold one of the world's most bizarre world records.

The Turkish construction worker on Wednesday poured milk into his hand, loudly squirted it up his nose and snorted it 9.23 feet out of his left eye in what he hopes will be recognized as a new world record.

"I'm happy and proud that I can get Turkey in the record book even if it's for milk squirting," said the 28-year-old. He says he is among only a handful of people around the world who can perform the feat because of an anomaly in his brain gland.

The Web site for Guinness World Records says Canadian Mike Meara of Vancouver, British Columbia, set the existing record, of 8.745 feet in France in 2001.

In an e-mail, Guinness World Records said it had no official representative present to witness Yilmaz's feat and was waiting for documents from organizers of Yilmaz's event to prove the record.

"It is really good to hear that provisionally a new record may have been set," Sam Knights, a Guinness representative, said in an e-mail. "We welcome new record breakers and look forward to receiving the evidence ... and then we can verify this new record attempt."

Yilmaz said he has known for years that he could squirt liquids out of his eye, but only three years ago found out that there was a record for squirting milk.

"I learned by chance that I had

such a talent. When I was swimming with friends, I noticed water squirting out of my eye," he said. "When I saw [a previous Guinness attempt] on TV, I thought, maybe I could do that, too."

Mahir Kendumis, an Istanbul-based eye doctor, said a cavity-lined the lower eyelid to the nasal cavity, but added that he has never heard of anyone who was able to carry out a feat such as Yilmaz's.

Two years ago, Yilmaz said he broke an earlier record, but Guinness did not recognize it because the witnesses present did not fulfill its guidelines.

On Wednesday, an imam, or Muslim prayer leader, was among witnesses watching as Yilmaz sucked in the milk, held back his left eyelid with his finger and squirted away. Yilmaz succeeded on his third attempt.

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Sunday Evening	6:00 P.M.
Wednesday	
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting	6:30 P.M.
Patch and Peevee Prayer Club	Preschool-6th grade
Proteins	7-12th grade
Ladies Bible Studies Monthly	
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Worship Service 10:45am
Children's Church (English, Japanese) 10:45am
Lenten Lenten 11:00am
Children's Sunday School Youth Action Groups (see below) 1:00pm
Home Fellowship Groups (every 1st & 3rd Sunday) 6:00pm

TUESDAY
Ladies Bible Study 9:00am
Ladies Night Out (Twice of months) 6:00pm

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Adult Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
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Chuck Renshaw helps Cheryl Eldridge, right, and Robin Dunn, left, move belongings out of their mobile home Thursday in Rockledge, Fla. Mandatory evacuation is in effect at the mobile home park due to Hurricane Frances.

AP



Floridians prep for Frances

The Associated Press

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — More than a million people threatened by Hurricane Frances were told to clear out Thursday, and residents scrambled to board up homes and stock up on water ahead of what could be Florida's mightiest storm in a decade.

A hurricane warning covered much of the state's eastern coast — about 300 miles from Florida City, near the state's southern tip, to Flagler Beach, north of Daytona Beach.

The warning meant hurricane-force winds of at least 74 mph were likely by midmorning Friday — three weeks after Hurricane Charley, another Category 4 storm, raked the state's western coast, killing 27 people.

Most of the residents who were told to leave were in South Florida — 300,000 in Palm Beach County, 250,000 in Broward County and 320,000 in Miami-Dade County.

States of emergency were declared in Florida and Georgia.

With its 145 mph winds, Frances is as strong as Hurricane

Charley, and it's twice the size, said Stephen Baig, a forecaster at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Frances is also about twice the size of 1992's Hurricane Andrew, the Category 5 storm that destroyed much of southern Miami-Dade County.

Supermarkets along Florida's Atlantic coast were stripped of bottled water and canned goods, and long lines of customers waited at home supply stores Thursday hoping for a chance to buy plywood or generators.

Demand for gas was so great some stations were pumped dry.

Israeli spy probe reportedly more than 2 years old

WASHINGTON — For more than two years, the FBI has been investigating whether classified intelligence has been passed to Israel by the American Israel Political Action Committee, an influential U.S. lobbying group, in a probe that extends beyond the case of Pentagon employee Lawrence A. Franklin, according to senior U.S. officials and other sources.

The counterintelligence probe, which is different from a criminal investigation, focuses on a possible transfer of intelligence more extensive than whether Franklin passed on a draft presidential directive on U.S. policy toward Iran, the sources said. The FBI is examining whether highly classified material from the National Security Agency, which conducts electronic intercepts of communications, were also forwarded to Israel, they said.

The investigation of Franklin is coincidental to the broader FBI counterintelligence probe, which was already long under way when Franklin came to the attention of investigators. U.S. officials and sources said, Franklin, a career analyst at the Defense Intelligence Agency who specializes in Iran, is suspected of passing the proposed directive on Iran to AIPAC, officials said, which may have forwarded it to Israel. Franklin now works for Douglas J. Feith, under-secretary of defense for policy.

Among the many unanswered questions in the case, sources familiar with it said, is whether a U.S. official with access to the intelligence volunteered it, or whether allies of Israel in the United States sought intelligence to pass on to Israel.

Prosecutor: GI's intent was to deal with al-Qaida

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — Sgt. Ryan Anderson was clear about his intentions in cell-phone text messages, e-mails and meetings with undercover agents he believed to be members of the al-Qaida terrorist network, an Army prosecutor said Thursday.

"It shows that he's trying to do all that he can, that the information he has, he's willing to share it with al-Qaida," Maj. Melvin Jenks said in his closing argument at Anderson's court-martial.

Anderson, a tank crewman whose 81st Armor Brigade unit is now in Iraq, is accused of trying to show terrorists how best to attack the M1A1 Abrams, the Army's primary battle tank, and kill the soldiers inside.

During his nearly hourlong closing, he showed segments of the secretly recorded videotape of Anderson's Feb. 9 meeting with undercover agents he believed to be terrorists.

The 27-year-old Muslim convert is charged with five counts of trying to provide al-Qaida with information about U.S. troop strength and tactics, as well as methods for killing American soldiers.

From wire reports

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Vice president derides Kerry for 'indecision'

BY LAURA MECKLER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Vice President Dick Cheney accused John Kerry on Wednesday night of a dangerous "habit of indecision" hardly befitting a commander in chief. President Bush, he said, has led with strength and conviction.

"A senator can be wrong for 20 years, but not because of the nation. But a president always casts the deciding vote," Cheney told cheering delegates who greeted him with chants of "four more years."

Accepting his party's nomination for a second term, Cheney paid brief homage to Kerry's service in Vietnam and then said he has been wrong on foreign policy in the three decades since.

"Even in this post-9/11 period, Senator Kerry doesn't appear to understand how the world has changed," Cheney told delegates packed into Madison Square Garden and millions of voters watching at home.

Cheney's task Wednesday

Cheney's gay daughter, partner on hand for speech

Los Angeles Times

NEW YORK — As Vice President Dick Cheney stepped onto the podium in Madison Square Garden on Wednesday night, the eyes of some were trained not on the stage but the audience, searching for a glimpse of his daughter Mary.

And there she was, in the first family's box, sitting next to her partner in their most public appearance as a lesbian couple.

The vice president, in his speech accepting renomination, did not mention Mary or her older sister, Elizabeth, choosing instead to feature his four grandchildren. At the end of the vice president's remarks, he was joined onstage by Elizabeth and the grandchildren, while Mary and Heather Poe applauded from their seats.

night was twofold: talk up the president and take apart the record of the man challenging him.

Echoing accusations he and President Bush have made repeatedly on the campaign trail, Cheney accused Kerry of taking two sides in a series of issues, in-

cluding war with Iraq and No Child Left Behind, the president's education initiative.

"His back-and-forth reflects a habit of indecision and sends a message of confusion," he said in one of his harshest critiques yet of the Massachusetts senator who is challenging Bush for the presi-

Their prominence in the first row of the box amounted to a silent resistance against religious conservatives, who have made Mary Cheney's sexual orientation an issue.

Her decision not to slink from the controversy raised few hackles in Madison Square Garden on Wednesday.

Greg Curtis, a delegate from Salt Lake City, said that while he does not approve of homosexuality or gay marriage, he respects the rights of others to make their own choices.

"If I were vice president and she were my daughter, I'd want her sitting by my side too," Curtis said.

Cheney and Poe, whom she calls her life partner, share a house in the Denver suburbs.

dency. "Sen. Kerry says he sees two Americas. It makes the whole thing mutual. America sees two John Kerrys."

Delegates responded with chants of "flip flop, flip flop" and some waved flip-flop sandals.

On national security, Cheney, who received five deferments

from service in Vietnam, noted Kerry's decorated service. "And we honor him for it," Cheney said.

He then launched into an extended critique of Kerry's record, saying it is on national security where the differences between Bush and Kerry are sharpest.

"Time and again Senator Kerry has made the wrong call on national security," Cheney said.

Kerry, he wanted to please allies rather than lead the world with strength.

"George W. Bush will never seek a permission slip to defend the American people," he said to thunderous applause from delegates shouting "USA! USA!" and hoisting signs that read "Let Freedom Reign."

Cheney's vice presidential rival, Democratic Sen. John Edwards, responded that Democrats would do better than the current administration at home and abroad.

"There was a lot of hate coming from that podium tonight," he said in a statement. "What John Kerry and I offer to the American people is hope."

Democratic colleague slams Kerry before GOP delegates

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hailed by Republicans as "the conscience of the Democratic Party," Georgia Sen. Zell Miller asserted Wednesday that Senate colleague John Kerry's indecisiveness would encourage terrorists and weaken the country's defenses.

"George Bush wants to grab terrorists by the throat and not let them go to get a better grip," the Georgia senator said. "From John Kerry, they get a 'yes-no-maybe' bowl of mush that can only encourage our enemies and confuse our friends."

To a den of cheering Republicans, Miller delivered the keynote GOP address, a resounding denunciation of Kerry and the Democratic Party to which he has belonged for half a century. He enthusiastically endorsed President Bush's re-election.

"I have knocked on the door of this man's soul and found someone home, a God-fearing man with a good heart and a spine of tempered steel," Miller said. "The man I trust to protect my most precious possession: my family."

The partisan crowd went wild, holding up signs saying "We love Zell" and "It's Zell Miller Time," when he said "No pair has been more wrong, more loudly, more often than the two senators from Massachusetts: Ted Kennedy and John Kerry."

Still, Miller said he has no plans to become a Republican. "He's not seeking re-election — and his vote for Bush will be his first for a Republican in 52 years as a voter."

Miller gave the Democratic keynote address 12 years earlier in the same Madison Square Garden, and his colleagues seethed in anger — calling him a turncoat and organizing protests at his office.

Miller, meanwhile, was scathing in his criticism of fellow Democrat Kerry. He said no one had been "more wrong, more loudly, more often."

"For more than 20 years, on every one of the great issues of freedom and security, John Kerry has been more wrong, more weak and more wobbly than any other national figure," Miller said. "As a war protester, Kerry blamed our military. As a senator, he voted to weaken our military."

Miller, D-Ga., said Kerry had voted to cut key weapon systems.

"This is a man who wants to be the commander in chief of our U.S. armed forces? U.S. forces armed with what? Spitballs?" Miller said.

Republicans hoped Miller's speech would convince undecided voters and maybe some conservative Democrats that Kerry is too liberal for them. Miller has consistently sided with the Republicans on just about every issue during his Senate career.

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Miller plays 'Hardball' with Matthews

By PATRICK DICKSON

Stars and Stripes

Democratic Sen. Zell Miller was fiery on the podium Wednesday night during the convention, but nothing like during his late-evening interview with MSNBC's Chris Matthews on "Hardball."

Matthews was interviewing Miller via video from NBC headquarters, a few miles from Madison Square Garden, where the convention is being held.

Matthews' habit of interrupting guests as they respond got under Miller's skin, and he was not shy about saying so.

"This is your program and I'm a guest on your program, so I want to try to be as nice as I possibly can to you. I wish I was over there where I could get a little closer up into your face," Miller said.

Matthews seemed to be enjoying the exchange and continued to press Miller on the contents of his speech.

"Get out of my face!" Miller shouted. "If you're going to ask me a question, step back and let me answer. I wish we lived in the day when you could challenge a person to a duel. Now that would be pretty good."

Edwards: GOP 'anger' won't solve problems

By JENNIFER KAY

The Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards dismissed the Republicans' biting criticism of his running mate John Kerry, saying Thursday the GOP spent "all of their time and all of their energy trying to tear down a patriot."

The morning after Vice President Dick Cheney and Sen. Zell Miller, D-Ga., used their turns at the Republican convention podium to deride the Democratic presidential nominee, Edwards said that kind of rhetoric won't solve



Edwards

the nation's problems. "The anger we heard from Senator Miller, the anger we heard from the vice president — anger is not going to change this country and do what needs to be done for America," Edwards told a town hall meeting at a community center in this Philadelphia suburb.

the nation's

problems.

"The

anger we

heard from

Senator Miller,

the anger we

heard from

the vice

president —

anger is not

going to

change this

country and do

what needs to

be done for

America," Edwards

told a town hall

meeting at a

community

center in this

Philadelphia sub-

urb.

Addressing the

delegates in

New York on

Wednesday night,

Cheney and Miller

portrayed

Kerry as a model of

indecision

whose Senate

voting record on

national

security issues

makes him

a poor

candidate for

commander

in chief.

Edwards said

he wished the

Republicans

would show "a

little

anger about the

millions of people

who lost their

health care"

and the millions

who have lost

their jobs in the

last four years.

"It doesn't

surprise me

that the vice

president of the

United States

spent most of

his speech

talking about John Kerry because you know he doesn't want to talk about what they've done to this country," the North Carolina senator said.

Edwards described the Democratic convention last month in Boston as a positive gathering in which they laid out their agenda and vision for the country. By comparison, the Republicans have devoted "all of their time and all of their energy trying to tear down a patriot," he said.

About claims that Kerry's record on defense issues is weak, he said, "It's just false, it's not true."

Franks to support Bush re-election efforts

By FRANK DAVIES

Knight Ridder Newspapers

NEW YORK — Retired Gen. Tommy Franks, who commanded U.S. forces in Afghanistan and Iraq, will endorse President Bush for his "proven leadership in a time of crisis" in a speech Thursday at the Republican National Convention.

In an interview Wednesday, Franks said Democrat John Kerry was "fully qualified" to be commander in chief and "would be a good president at another place in our history."

But the former commander of



Franks

decided to back him publicly.

"The only question was would I support the guy in the queue of the polling booth or would I be-

come more vocal," said Franks, a last-minute addition to the convention schedule. "I'm doing this because I'm positive about Bush, not negative about the other guy."

Franks was disdainful of the "hyper-polarity" he sees in politics and "the hyperbole that exists on both sides, whether from the Swift Boat guys or Michael Moore," referring to the veterans who oppose Kerry and the filmmaker who derides Bush.

Franks' speech could help Bush on one of his major vulnerabilities — the decision-making on Iraq. Polls show that roughly

half the public now views Bush's decision to invade Iraq a mistake.

As the public grows more anxious about the violence in Iraq, Franks remained upbeat about Iraq's future, but he conceded that he'd been disappointed by some U.S. mistakes and a slow effort at reconstruction.

"Iraq is chaotic, lethal and dangerous, but Iraqis are trying to take charge of their future, and that's a positive thing that we have to support," said Franks, who was also in New York to promote his recent memoir, "American Soldier."

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YOUR MONEY



Left: Lillian Landrigan, right, fills a cavity in Doug Stewart's tooth with the help of assistant Star Mathews at the Petro Truck Stop Plaza. Landrigan had a practice in nearby Germantown, Tenn., and did a six-month stint in Iraq before opening the truck-stop practice. Right: Truck driver Robert Kuffler of Louisiana returns to his rig after an emergency tooth extraction by Landrigan at the Petro Truck Stop Plaza.



PHOTOS BY THE (MEMPHIS, TENN.) COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Back from Iraq, dentist opens shop at truck stop

BY MARIA BURNHAM

The (Memphis, Tenn.) Commercial Appeal

MEMPHIS — Dave McIntosh pulled his rig into the Petro truck stop and saw a sign he'd been acting to see for a long time: "Dentist."

The dentist is Lillian Landrigan, and she opened her truck-stop dental practice about six weeks ago. Her hours are officially 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., but if she's needed she will rush from her home after hours and on weekends.

"For us that's very convenient," said Knoxville-based McIntosh, who has had a couple of teeth pulled and a partial reconstructed. "That's a real handy thing, that you can have someone you can go to any time during the day."

"When you find out you're headed her way, you can give her a call and she fits you in. She works with us instead of trying to make us work her way, and that makes a big difference."

Opening a dental office that caters to truck drivers meant changes the traditional way such offices

operate, Landrigan said.

Her schedule had to be more flexible, and the old system of an examination one day and treatment the next had to be thrown out.

She also had to throw out the gas. Rendering a driver unconscious for a procedure and then sending him off in a tractor-trailer is generally not a good idea, she said.

This is Landrigan's second practice. She had an office in the area for more than a decade. But in 1999 she decided to join the Army

full time, after serving in the reserves for 14 years.

She served as a dentist for the Army and was sent to Iraq at the end of last year.

After returning, she opened the truck-stop location.

"I think it's a good business plan," Landrigan said. "Most truckers have excellent dental plans but are unable to take advantage of them because they are unable to stay at home."

Her two-person operation (she has one employee, Star Mathews) and new technology means she is able to keep overhead costs down. She uses a digital X-ray machine, which means there is no processing time, and insurance claims can be filed on secure sites from the Internet.

"The expense of dentistry is the time it takes you to do it and the number of people you have to employ," Landrigan said.

But even with her small office

and time-saving equipment, she doesn't expect to start seeing significant profits for five to six years. Still, she is encouraged by the amount of walk-in traffic and regular customers she's seeing.

Her clients are mostly truckers, but Landrigan said some of her old patients have followed her. She also is seeing a good number of local residents and those in the service industry who, like truckers, find it difficult to visit dentists with traditional practices.

"I believe in this," Landrigan said. "I hope it's going to work." Most of her patients have not received dental care recently, she said. She does some routine cleanings, but mostly the patients are in some sort of pain.

Landrigan isn't the first dentist to think of opening a practice in a truck stop.

There are a few scattered around the country. But it is not yet the norm, either.

"This is kind of unique," she said. "A wave of the future."

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES					
52-week High	Last	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg
10,735.51	9,275.47	Dow Jones Industrials	10,168.40	-5.46	-2.71
3,212.45	2,660.66	Dow Jones Transportation	3,106.53	+1.07	+0.33
290.59	278.78	Dow Jones Utilities	291.11	+5.56	+1.07
6,798.12	5,514.48	NYSE Composite	6,409.86	+15.64	+2.4
1,278.55	979.89	Amer. Ind. Midlines	1,221.63	+50.62	+4.1
1,163.23	1,759.82	NASDAQ Composite	1,163.91	+12.31	+0.7
1,163.23	996.36	S&P 500	1,163.91	+1.67	+0.15
638.46	507.09	S&P MidCap	581.37	+4.75	+0.82
69.42	482.13	Russell 2000	552.46	+4.53	+0.83
11,371.14	9,595.20	DJ Wilshire 5000	10,468.37	+29.72	+2.38

NYSE					
Most Active (\$1 or more)	Last	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg
1,411.1	1.59	0.50	Novartis	567.74	-34.37
1,411.1	1.59	0.50	Novartis	567.74	-34.37
1,411.1	1.59	0.50	Novartis	567.74	-34.37
1,411.1	1.59	0.50	Novartis	567.74	-34.37
1,411.1	1.59	0.50	Novartis	567.74	-34.37
1,411.1	1.59	0.50	Novartis	567.74	-34.37
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1,411.1	1.59	0.50	Novartis	567.74	-34.37
1,411.1	1.59	0.50	Novartis	567.74	-34.37
1,411.1	1.59	0.50	Novartis	567.74	-34.37

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS					
Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	% YTD
Alliant Technology	—	14	58.65	+1.3	+1.5
Amstar Holdings	—	10	46.37	+0.4	+1.3
Boeing	—	10	52.39	+1.7	+2.4
General Dynamics	—	10	46.37	+0.4	+1.3
General Electric	—	10	46.37	+0.4	+1.3
General Motors	—	10	46.37	+0.4	+1.3
General Motors	—	10	46.37	+0.4	+1.3
General Motors	—	10	46.37	+0.4	+1.3
General Motors	—	10	46.37	+0.4	+1.3
General Motors	—	10	46.37	+0.4	+1.3

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS					
Name	NAV	Chg	% YTD	% Chg	% YTD
Fidelity Investor: Ultra	35.85	+0.87	+1.1	+0.1	+1.1
Fidelity Investor: Ultra	35.85	+0.87	+1.1	+0.1	+1.1
Fidelity Investor: Ultra	35.85	+0.87	+1.1	+0.1	+1.1
Fidelity Investor: Ultra	35.85	+0.87	+1.1	+0.1	+1.1
Fidelity Investor: Ultra	35.85	+0.87	+1.1	+0.1	+1.1

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Japanese yen (Sept. 3)	106.00	
S. Korean won (Sept. 2)	1,122.00	
Euro	\$1.25	
British pound	\$1.84	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	—	0.377
British pound	—	\$1.728
Canada (Dollar)	—	1.306
Denmark (Krone)	—	6.104
Egypt (Pound)	—	7.50
Euro	—	\$1.25
Hong Kong (Dollar)	—	21.04
Hungary (Forint)	—	17.99
Israel (Shekel)	—	4.528
Japan (Yen)	—	106.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	—	0.2947
Norway (Krone)	—	4.856
Philippines (Peso)	—	56.16
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	—	2.750
Singapore (Dollar)	—	1.705
South Africa (Rand)	—	1.151
Switzerland (Franc)	—	1.151
Thailand (Baht)	—	1.492
Turkey (Lira)	—	1,492.20

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For historical currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Mercile		
Gold	\$498.00	
Silver	\$6.73	
Interest Rates		
Prime rate	—	4.50
Discount rate	—	4.50
Federal funds market rate	—	1.25
3-month bill	—	1.68
2-year bond	—	4.93
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com		

Don't rush into repair work

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — When your home is damaged by a natural disaster, temper the impulse to rush into repair work. The Federal Trade Commission and the American Red Cross offer this advice on choosing a contractor:

- Deal only with licensed and insured contractors, screen candidates and check references.
- Ask for proof of performance licenses, building permits and a certificate of insurance.
- Be wary of contractors claiming immediate or extremely cheap service.
- If unsolicited contractors visit your home to offer services, write down their license plate and driver's license numbers.
- Verify that there is no cost for an estimate before allowing the contractor into your home.
- Get estimates from several contractors. Find out what your neighbors are paying for repairs.
- Make sure your signature on a bid is not an authorization to start work.
- Get a written contract that gives details of the scope of work, costs and payment schedules.
- If your contractor requests an up-front payment for materials, go with him to buy the materials or pay the supplier directly.
- Never pay the entire cost of the job up front. A deposit of one-third of the total is standard.

FACES 'N' PLACES

The latest LL Cool J

Rapper reinvents himself over and over to stay in the hip-hop game

BY JIM FARRER
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — In the past year, Jay-Z has retired from the rap race. So has DMX. But don't ask LL Cool J if he's next.

"Retirement isn't even a realistic conversation for me," says the rapper. "I'm nowhere near that page. I was born to do this."

And he has been doing this almost since he was born. For 19 years, LL has sustained a career in a field whose stars are lucky to last 19 minutes.

Call him the Madonna of hip hop. At 36, he knows how important it is to keep displaying new images to the public.

On Tuesday, he'll release his 10th album of new material, "The Definition." So, naturally, he has lately tweaked his look — and his clothes.

This time, he's making more attempts to keep them on.

Over the years, LL's naked torso has become as familiar a pop-culture touchstone as Jennifer Lopez's rump or 50 Cent's bullet scars.

These days, when magazine editors ask him to disrobe to show off his famously buff physique for photo shoots, he usually demurs.

"It gets tiring," LL explains. "It's like the guy you see at the gym with muscles who runs around with a tank top in winter. I don't want to be that guy."

Then again, just three weeks ago he tore off his top for the cameras at the "Today" show.

At least he's been more consistent in the tone of the clothes he sells. LL, one of the pioneers of hip-hop cross-marketing, is coming out with his third fashion line, which he's named after himself: James Todd Smith.

"It will be upscale," he hawks. "You'll have the ability to look like a million without spending a million."

But if LL means to give off certain messages of maturity, he has also made sure to keep a hold on youthful street culture. "The Definition" stresses club music, with an accent on upbeat tracks — thanks to Timbaland, the disk's prime producer.

It's rare for LL to devote so much of a CD to a single producer. "We hit it off," he explains. "The chemistry was right."

The result isn't likely to put LL Cool J back at the cutting edge of hip-hop culture, which he occupied in the early '90s with classic albums like "Mama Said Knock You Out."

But at least it presents another side of a rapper who has already offered a more nuanced view of himself than many in the field.

LL "never put himself in a box as a one-dimensional character," says Erik Parker, music editor of *Vibe*. "He never hid behind a macho image."

And yet he doesn't lack for respect. LL has been able to pose on the cover of *Vibe* with his family (which includes three daughters and a son) without coming off like a Will Smith milquetoast.

His image has something in common with that of Bruce Springsteen, who likewise played good guy in a field of rebels while skirting the tag of wimp.

"I'm just being myself," LL says. "I don't have those issues. I come from a loving family. I think people respect you if you don't put on a facade."

The fact that some popular rappers push far crueler images has struck many pundits as an exploitation of racist images of African Americans.

LL doesn't buy it. "It's just that way because a lot of young people like the tough guy," he explains. "They get off on Eminem's image, too. It's not racist. People like things that have that fear factor. Look, people watch people eat bugs on TV."

LL's own work on TV involved something considerably lighter — a sitcom on UPN called "In The House" (1995-99). He also has a long list of movie credits, from light fare like "Toys" and "Deliver Us From Eva" to action flicks like "S.W.A.T." and "Rollerball."

But now he's going serious. This winter he'll be seen in "Edison," a morality tale involving cops and journalists, playing a corrupt cop opposite Morgan Freeman and Kevin Spacey.

Yet LL has lately become sick of everyone asking him just when he thinks he'll be too old for the rap game.

"That's a conversation for Mick Jagger or Steven Tyler," he says.

"I thought rock 'n' roll answered this question already. Hip-hop is only 25 years old. Who knows where it will go?"



ABACA PRESS/DARBE ROTACH/RET

LL Cool J performs on stage as part of NBC's "Today" show's Summer Concert Series at Rockefeller Plaza in New York City on August 6. The rapper, who's been on the hip-hop scene for several years, isn't planning to leave his life's passion any time soon.

Honoring those who answered

America's Call to Action

Every service member's commitment to our nation's defense is invaluable.

During the month of September, DefendAmerica.mil and the Pentagon Channel will spotlight some of the many men and women in uniform who joined the armed forces in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States.

If you responded to the attack by joining the military and would like us to consider your story for publication, please fill up the form found at:

www.defendamerica.mil/forms/CallAction.html

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Sasebo athletic field tackles high-tech turf

Nimitz Park project near completion

By GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — Servicemembers and youths involved in athletics here plan to compete soon on the same surface as athletes at the Tokyo Dome, Yokohama Stadium and several National Football League venues. Workers are just weeks from completing the \$650,000 installation of artificial turf on the base's Nimitz Park multipurpose

athletic field.

For decades, it was used for soccer matches, flag and even tackle football. However, whenever a hard rain drenched Sasebo — not an uncommon occurrence — the field's uneven surface, bad drainage and perpetual lack of grass turned it into little more than a thick bowl of mud, said Morale, Welfare and Recreation Sports Director Isaiah Mincks.

The new artificial turf field will be the first installed on a military base in Japan.

"This is the turf ... used to do the Tokyo Dome and Yokohama Stadium," said Lt. j.g. Tyler Wolf, assistant officer in charge of base construction. "They've also done Seahawks (Seattle) Stadium and the Cincinnati Bengals."

The \$650,000 cost includes landscaping and covering the field with a product known as Field-Turf. Work began in mid-June, and is set for completion by the end of September.

"I'd love to take the credit for getting this here but back in 2000 my predecessor (Kylie Rhodus, now with Yokosuka's MWR) did all the research," said Mincks.

"Made in Canada, the new turf's sand and rubber 'infill system' is a safe alternative to real grass, resulting in a reduction of sports injuries," states the company's Web site (www.fieldturf.com).

The difference can be felt. Instead of a dense, abrasive rug, the



PHOTOS BY GREG TYLER/Stars and Stripes

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports logo will soon be installed in the center of the new artificial turf multipurpose field at Sasebo Naval Base's Nimitz Park in Japan. The logo is made from the same type of artificial grass as the rest of the field, but produced according to a programmed pattern of colors. It will never need to be touched up with paint or colored chalk.

surface is soft and silky.

"The maintenance is pretty much nothing, compared to what we had to do before, in the manpower of lining the field for soccer or flag football," Mincks said. "And you don't have to mow it."

"It pretty much allows us to arrange games all through the year, unless we have really inclement weather," he said. "A little rain's not going to stop us."

After Wednesday's heavy afternoon rains, for instance, "We could have still played games out here," Mincks said, "whereas before, it was just a big mud puddle, and what little grass we did have would get all torn up."

Wolf said Japanese contractors told him not much in the way of weather could make the field unusable. Bad weather might "be a little uncomfortable for the players," he said, "but the field would

be fine."

At one point Thursday, Mincks straddled a boundary line running the length of the field.

Before the synthetic turf was installed, such lines, applied manually with chalk, seldom were straight.

"Wow. Look. We actually have a straight line. Really, it's perfectly straight," he said.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@spitfires.osd.mil



Japanese workers carefully peel back strips of green artificial turf that will later be replaced with white turf that serves as the soccer field boundaries.

Yokota plays role in Tokyo's annual disaster drill

By VINCE LITTLE
AND HANA KUSUMOTO

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Tokyo Metropolitan Government held its fourth annual earthquake disaster-preparedness drill Wednesday, using the flight line here as a staging area and relay base to transfer "patients" and equipment from fixed-wing aircraft to helicopters.

Tokyo Gov. Shintaro Ishihara observed the exercise alongside Col. Mark Schissler, the 374th Airlift Wing commander. Participants included the Japan Air Self-Defense Force, Tokyo Fire Department, Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department and the Japanese Red Cross.

Similar training sessions were conducted in Tokyo, including one at the Hardy Barracks helped that simulated the transfer of an injured patient to a hospital.

The event coincides yearly with the anniversary of the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake, a massive 8.3-magnitude temblor that killed more than 140,000 people, left hundreds of thousands homeless and devastated Tokyo and outlying communities.

"The objective of the exercise is to test the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's ability to respond to a major earthquake," said Capt. David Westover, a 374th Airlift Wing spokesman. "The annual exercise is an excellent example of the cooperation that exists between the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the Japanese military and civil service organizations, and the U.S. military here at Yokota Air Base."

Wednesday's scenario involved a major earthquake striking northeast of Tokyo at about 6 a.m., Japanese government officials said.

Homes and businesses were severely damaged in Taito, Sumida and Arakawa wards, closing roads and railways and cutting off electricity, gas and water.

Death and injuries were also extensive under the simulation, Westover said, a result of massive fires and numerous destroyed buildings.

The Tokyo government used a portion of Yokota's runway to stage the airlift of supplies from distant prefectures, as well as rescue personnel and vehicles. The base could also facilitate the transport of critically injured people from surrounding cities to better-equipped medical centers, officials said.

About 28,000 people took part in the drill within the Tokyo metropolitan area, including government and fire officials, volunteers and residents in eight prefectures and cities, according to a Tokyo Metropolitan Government news release.

At Hardy Barracks, about a dozen emergency and rescue personnel handled delivery of the patient, who landed in the helicopter with a doctor and nurse. The individual was then rushed to a local hospital by ambulance.

"The drill was conducted without any problems," a Tokyo Metropolitan Government official said, adding that this marked the second time the helpup was used in the exercise.



KAORI MATSUKAWA/Courtesy of U.S. Air Force

Members of the Japanese Red Cross take part in Wednesday's earthquake disaster-prevention drill on the flight line at Yokota Air Base, Japan. The flight line was used as a staging area and relay base to transfer "patients" and equipment from fixed-wing aircraft to helicopters.

With the annual simulation, officials aim "to improve the ability to respond to disasters by conducting relief effort drills with mutual coordination by Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Taito ward, Sumida ward and Arakawa ward and to establish self-help and assistance systems immediately after earthquake disaster," the release stated.

Participants also hoped to strengthen communication in times of crisis by providing safety information to residents through technological improvements.

A different scenario is produced every year, a Tokyo Metropolitan Government spokesman said.

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Getting to the truth

After reading the Aug. 21 letter "Kerry?
Incomprehensible," I am just taking a wild
guess that the writer is not real fond of
John Kerry and probably won't be donat-
ing to his campaign.

I do wonder about the relevance of some
of the statements made. Does it really mat-
ter why Mr. Kerry enlisted in the Navy?
The fact is he did enlist and did serve his
country. Does it really matter that he
spent "only" four months fighting in com-
bat? How long in combat is long enough?
To the letter writer: If you don't like the
man because he spoke out about the Viet-
nam war, then so be it. If you don't like his
voting record, OK. If you don't like the di-
recting the current administration is tak-
ing the country, that's OK, too. But you
might want to get past the rhetoric and hy-
perbole and try to get to the truth.

How did the candidates actually vote
and why? A good place to start is Vote
Smart, www.vote-smart.org. The site has a
lot of good information including congres-
sional voting records.

Did Kerry or President Bush actually
say or do what is claimed? Good places to
start there are sites such as Truth or Fi-
ction, www.truthorfiction.com, and Snopes,
www.snopes.com. And if you want to cut
through all the spin that the candidates
throw into their political ads, you can go to
Annenberg Political Fact Check
www.factcheck.org.

Gordon Ussler
Würzburg, Germany

Abuse claim unfounded

As a physician at the 31st Combat Hos-
pital in Baghdad, I am offended by
the accusations in the Associated Press
article "Professor: Iraq prison doc sided
against" (Stars and Stripes, Aug. 22). In
the article, a bioethicist charges that "Doctors
working for the U.S. military in Iraq" col-
laborated with interrogators in the abuse
of detainees at Abu Ghraib.

I would most certainly agree that it
would be a reprehensible act if any physi-
cian performed or assisted in performing
any torture or knew of torture and did not

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on
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try to stop it. If this has occurred, I hope
that the appropriate investigations will
bring out the truth and bring any perpetra-
tors to justice.

The reporter quoted a Boston psychia-
trist and the Minnesota medical ethicist.
Neither one has anywhere close to Iraq,
or spoken to physicians who have
served or are serving here. Their accusa-
tions seem to come primarily from detainees
who would likely have a biased view-
point and limited knowledge of the circum-
stances. Although the accusations may
seem believable and horrendous, there are
likely very reasonable explanations.

It appears that the AP report and the ar-
ticles cited by the reporter are very biased
and accusatory and opinions trying to defame
the physicians and the U.S. military. As a
physician who is working for the Army, I
take great offense with this. The physi-
cians I know are focused on providing the
best medical care possible to all patients
who come in. I know of no physician who
has joined the military to go to a prison
camp in order to torture prisoners.

At the 31st Combat Support Hospital in

Baghdad, we treat patients of all national-
ities, including the insurgents. All patients
who enter our doors get the best treatment
possible. No available, necessary treat-
ment is withheld from anyone. Our motto
here is "Rightfully Proud." We are confi-
dent that this is the best medical care avail-
able in Iraq. Saddam Hussein himself
would agree — he has been brought here
for treatment.

Perhaps those truly interested in re-
porting the facts as they pertain to the medical
staff and the treatment of detainees would
like to visit Baghdad and do some research
before making their accusations and writ-
ing their articles.

Maj. Gregory H. Chow

Baghdad

Weighing in on pennies

In the Aug. 26 letter "Not a penny-ante
concern," the writer observed that when
he made a purchase at South Victory Base
in Baghdad, his change was rounded to the
nearest nickel instead of handing out pen-
nies. The mathematical calculation that
has Army and Air Force Exchange Ser-
vice overcharging us by more than
\$15,552 per year is amazing. However, its
basic assumption is wrong.

Not every transaction puts one or two
pennies in favor of AAFES. About half of
the transactions put the pennies in favor of
the customers. So it becomes a wash.

If you are anywhere overseas, you will
notice this practice is policy at all establish-
ments except the post office. This happens
at the commissary, BX/PX and Services/
Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities.
The real question should be why.

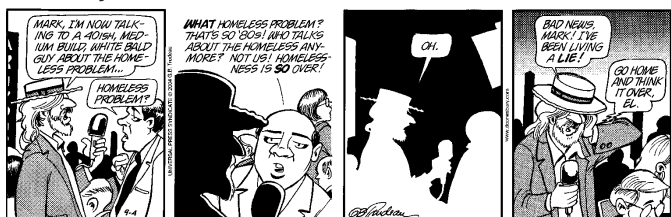
Look at the reality of cargo space or
weight and cost. It is more expensive per
pound to ship pennies overseas and to re-
mote locations than they are worth. How
much space and weight would it take to
ship \$15,552 worth of pennies to a combat
zone? Wouldn't you prefer to have mail
or much-needed supplies on the airplane?

Having spent several years overseas at
different locations, I prefer to do without
pennies and wish they would get rid of
them in the United States.

Master Sgt. Chaz Steiner

Ramstein Air Base, Germany

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



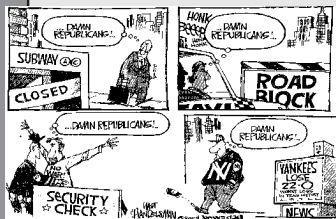
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Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



PAT OLIPHANT/Universal Press Syndicate



WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Media Services



BILL DEORE/Universal Press Syndicate



WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Media Services



WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Media Services

Tiger at large

LA PORT POLK — A Bengal tiger on the loose in the thick brush surrounding an Army base is winning a game of hide and seek.

A team of about 40 soldiers and sheriff's deputies searched the woods on Fort Polk on Tuesday, but saw no sign of the tiger.

"So far we've seen neither hide nor hair of it," said Scott Heinrich, owner of a wild animal consultancy brought in to track the tiger.

The search was set to resume Wednesday morning.

It was unclear where the animal came from, but it's likely that it was a pet that escaped or was set free, said Leslie Whitt, director of the Alexandria Zoo, who assisted in the search. Several witnesses said the animal was wearing a collar.

Heinrich said he and others scanned the woods from a helicopter but did not see the tiger. They continued their search on the ground, he said.

Based on witnesses' descriptions, the tiger is probably about 100 pounds and 1 year old, Whitt said.

"It probably has no experience whatsoever in killing anything, catching it and eating it," Whitt said. "It probably just freaked out and looking for a way back to where it belongs."

Statue being altered

NY ALBANY — Government cutbacks are hitting a continental soldier below the belt.

The statue of Copper John, a continental soldier that sits atop the state's Auburn Correctional Facility, was removed earlier this summer for renovation.

The beloved figure is set to return to his perch this fall, albeit a lesser man.

Workers sprucing up the 156-year-old statue were told to reduce the size of Copper John's crotch.

Neither the prison's superintendent nor the state Department of Correctional Services would discuss the reason for the order.

Department spokeswoman Linda Foglia confirmed the alteration took place.

Some correction officers aren't pleased with the reduction, and are donning shirts in protest.

Munchkins cause flap

IN CHESTERTON — Two top Munchkins won't be taking the Yellow Brick Road to Chester's annual Oz Festival this month because of a contract dispute.

Jerry Maren, who played the Lollipop Kid in "The Wizard of Oz," and Karl Slover, who played the First Trumpeter in the 1939 musical, have been regular attendees at past festivals in the town about 15 miles east of Gary. But the two former Munchkins were "disinvited" this year following a flap over their agent's request that organizers pay his travel expenses, said Karen Spallina, president of Lakeshore Festival and Events.

Two other former Munchkins — Margaret Pellegrini and Clarence Swensen — still are scheduled to attend the Sept. 17-19 festival.

In the past, organizers have dealt directly with the former



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Munchkins, Spallina said. But this year, Maren and Slover referred her to their agent, Ralph Zelle.

Former Munchkins receive \$750 for their weekend visit, plus paid airfare, hotel and meals, Spallina said.

However, Zelle wanted organizers to pay his expenses as Slover's traveling companion and allow him to set up a booth to sell Munchkin merchandise, said Spallina, who refused both requests.

New refueling station

ID HAUSER — At the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway's new refueling station, locomotive No. 441 blasted through an opening ceremony ribbon.

Railroad officials hope that's the last time something breaks at the huge pit stop for freight trains hauling cargo between Chicago and Pacific Northwest ports. The ceremony was Tuesday and the station opens for business on Wednesday just east of Spokane, Wash.

The facility is built atop an aquifer that is the sole source of drinking water for some 400,000 people in the Spokane area, but railroad officials insist they built so many safeguards in the \$42 million project that the water will remain safe.

"I've never seen a facility designed with this level of protection," said project manager Kenny Hancock of the engineer-



Electrical explosion

Mountain Home firefighters extinguish an electrical fire in Mountain Home, Ark. Four workers for North Arkansas Electric Cooperative were hurt, three of them severely, when a transformer they were moving exploded. Electric cooperative spokesman Jerry Estes said the utility was assessing the damage and trying to determine the cause of the blast.

ing firm Hanson-Wilson Inc. of Kansas City, Mo.

New delegate

KY FRANKFORT — Hip surgery knocked Lt. Gov. Steve Pence out of the Republican National Convention. Pence underwent a hip replacement on July 31. An aide says he remained in Kentucky on his doctor's advice. Most Kentucky delegates, including Gov. Ernie Fletcher, arrived Sunday. Pence was replaced as a delegate by Hilda Legg of Somerset.

Ancient tsunami find

HI HONOLULU — Scientists have determined a gigantic tsunami hit the Big Island 120,000 years ago, surging almost 4 miles inland and depositing fossil-laden sand up to an elevation of at least 1,600 feet.

The tsunami was generated by the Aika 2 Landslide, which came down the western slope of nearby Mauna Loa, the University of Hawaii's School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology said Wednesday.

The resulting wave surged across a coral terrace, now located at a depth of 1,400 feet, before moving inland, scientists said.

The wave left a deposit of smashed-up marine shells, chunks of lava rock, lumps of soil and fragments of coral, all cemented together by what was once coralline sand, the school said.

Defibrillators in schools

NJ NEWARK — All 77 schools in New Jersey's largest school district are being equipped with machines that jolt a stopped heart back to beating. Newark purchased 150 automated external defibrillators for about \$275,000 and trained school nurses to use them. Officials said they knew of no cases in Newark schools where a defibrillator was needed, but said there have been cases elsewhere.

Bones will stay buried

IA IOWA CITY — The dead at the University of Iowa's football stadium will stay buried. When Kinnick Stadium was built in 1929, horses and mules were used as heavy earth-movers. Some died after breaking their legs or getting stuck in the mud. Instead of pulling them out, the animals were buried beneath the north end zone. An \$87 million renovation begins after this season, but university said the bones will be left alone.

Near-miss at airport

CA LOS ANGELES — An Asiana Airlines jet arriving at Los Angeles International Airport last month came within several hundred feet of a departing Southwest Airlines flight in broad daylight, it was reported Wednesday.

A report obtained by the Los Angeles Times said a mix-up in the air control tower may have placed both planes on the same runway, the newspaper reported.

A captain aboard the Asiana Boeing 747, which was arriving from Incheon, South Korea, aborted the landing Aug. 19 and turned within several hundred feet of a Southwest jet headed to Albuquerque, the report showed.



Art from sand Alan Matsumoto, of Roanoke, Va., a member of the Sandscapes sand sculpture company group, works on a sculpture at the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo, Colo. The sculpture, which is a free attraction at the fair, is near completion and is entitled "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea."



Junkyard fire Firefighters battle a massive fire at an automobile salvage yard in Newport, Del. Jim Roselle, a dispatcher with New Castle County, said about 20 firefighting units had responded to the blaze, and that tanker trucks from Chester County, Pa., also were on the way.



Light work Dennis Swift prepares street lights for installation under the hot sun in Bakersfield, Calif. The lights were part of a remodeling project for a local hospital.



On track for the festival Eutimio Sanchez Nava works on a roller coaster ride in preparation for Santa-Call-Gon Days in Independence, Mo. The annual festival starts with the opening of the carnival Thursday and runs through Monday.



Auto facts from Otto Otto the Auto teaches students about traffic and pedestrian safety at Mesilla Park Elementary School in Las Cruces, N.M. The interactive car, which is part of AAA New Mexico's public affairs outreach program, uses songs, blinking headlights and a kid-friendly presentation to instill good traffic habits in young children, according to AAA's Brenda Yager.

Would-be robber flubs it

MA BOSTON — Paul Michael Callahan was a bank robber in search of a bank, according to police.

First thing Monday morning, he allegedly tried to rob a copy shop at Boston University thinking it was a bank. Boston police said he walked into the shop on Commonwealth Avenue and passed a note to a store employee asking for money. When he was told the shop wasn't a bank, Callahan asked for directions to the nearest Fleet bank branch, police said.

About 40 minutes later, he allegedly robbed a Fleet branch — but came away with less than \$200.

By Monday afternoon, Callahan allegedly held up a Citizen's Bank, making off with \$2,500. But a bright red dye pack exploded as he fled in his truck, which got a flat tire not far away.

In a last-ditch effort to get away, police said Callahan, covered in red dye, abandoned his truck and ran to a Brevard gas station, where he became a customer there to use his cell phone. He wanted to report his truck stolen.

Police found Callahan, 32, hiding in the gas station.

Same first school day?

GA ATLANTA — State politicians are considering passing a law to make the first day of school the same for all students in the state. Parents complain that starting early squeezes family vacation time and raises taxpayer-funded power bills at schools that rely on air conditioning to stay cool in the August heat.

Nearly every school was back in session by Aug. 9.

State changes tax code

MI LANSING — To better collect the state sales tax on Internet and catalogue purchases, Michigan made changes to its tax code in line with other states participating in the effort. The changes, which take effect Wednesday, affect items that had been tax free and now will have the 6 percent tax applied. The effort is supposed to make it more appealing for businesses to collect state taxes.

No-call law upheld

CO DENVER — A federal judge upheld Colorado's no-call law that bars telemarketers from phoning residents whose numbers appear on a state list. Colorado Citizens for Free Speech, a group headed by mortgage company owner Jeffrey Burke, argued the law was an unconstitutional regulation of commercial speech. Telemarketers can be fined as much as \$2,000 for each unwanted phone call.

Officers, firemen rehired

MA SPRINGFIELD — A state-controlled financial oversight board agreed to rehire some laid-off Springfield police officers and firefighters. The vote came after Executive Director Philip Pucci warned the city's financial situation might be worse than expected. Pucci called his figures "very preliminary." Police Chief Paula Meura said 17 po-

troopers, 17 civilian workers and six police cadets would be rehired.

Smoking ban at park

CA SANTA BARBARA — Bone-dry conditions are bringing additional restrictions for visitors to Los Padres National Forest, including a smoking ban. Starting Wednesday, fires or stoves fueled by gas or jellied fuel will be banned except in designated campsites. Wildfire dangers make restrictions necessary because moisture levels are down to 56 percent, already below the critical 60 percent level.

Bringing vote to victims

AZ PHOENIX — A voter drive is tapping domestic-violence victims. VotePower aims to get women in shelters to cast ballots by helping them register and fill out affidavits requesting confidentiality. Fear of being found has been a big obstacle for victims who may be inclined to vote but won't risk their safety. The National Network to End Domestic Violence is funding the effort.

Bank of Bedrock scam

CO DENVER — Federal regulators shut down a phony Internet bank claiming to be located in the tiny Colorado town of Bedrock — population 10 — near the Utah state line.

Through its Web site, the First National Bank of Bedrock offered deposit accounts, investments, debit cards and credit cards, according to the federal Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. The address listed for the bank — 7729 S. Granite Ave. — doesn't exist, said Bedrock postmaster Ruth Swain.

Regulators said it was unclear if the Web site was a joke, perhaps in reference to the fictional town on the old "Flintstones" TV show.

But the Web site could have been an attempt to collect personal information, said Kevin Mukri, spokesman for the currency controller's office.

The Web site seems to have been registered under a fictitious name, the office said.

Bedrock still receives mail for Fred and Wilma Flintstone and their cartoon pals Barney and Betty Rubble, said Swain. She stamps them "Return to Sender: Fictitious Cartoon Character."

Former mayor indicted

GA ATLANTA — Former Mayor Bill Campbell says a federal indictment accusing him of taking tens of thousands of dollars in bribes from city contractors was built on lies "from beginning to end."

"The only thing that's correct in this indictment is the spelling of my name," Campbell told reporters Monday after officials announced the indictment.

The indictment follows a five-year federal investigation into City Hall during Campbell's two terms as mayor, from 1994 to 2002.

The 51-year-old Democrat is accused of accepting illegal campaign contributions, cash, free travel and home improvements in exchange for city contracts.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

The sensual Taurus moon reminds us to enjoy ourselves, while the sun in Virgo brings focus to a million small details that enhance our experiences. The result is complete satisfaction, as long as we choose to focus on the right details — the ones that support the idea that you're really living the good life. Be careful not to spend too much.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Social prestige and glittering self-image reward your personal growth this year. Smooth public relations this month help you build your career. Sweethearts meet during the holidays. Love signs are Sagittarius or Capricorn. In matters of finance, stable investments are your best strategy before 2005. You'll remodel or buy property in March.

Aries (March 21-April 19). That old saying "No pain, no gain" is pessimistic. Why must everything that's good for you come at a price? Refuse to buy into the belief that life has to be hard to be righteous. Maybe the most beneficial thing to do is also the most fun.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Intuition is your best ally, but don't leave your intellect at home. When all your faculties are working together, you're at your absolute best. Romance must be delicately handled. It's not fair to string someone along.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Set up meetings — there's almost no one who won't take your call. An Aries is a strong supporter. Children manipulate you if you give them the chance. Have a structure in mind before you enter a situation.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). On the one hand, you'd like to push yourself to do all that's humanly possible, and on the other, you're not sure how much is humanly possible. Even Lance Armstrong has to recharge his batteries, right? Listen to your body.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Your relationship with money is highlighted, and there are all kinds of feelings that go along with it. Be mindful

not to tie your self-worth to the balance of your bank account, as the two have nothing to do with one another.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You wake up with a new attitude. Build a margin for error in all of your endeavors, and you'll feel

as though you've been liberated! Be on time for all appointments — no excuses, especially not the one about "traffic."

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Serious ideas are brewing. Today's lessons involve listening, focal directions and general compliance. If you can effectively do what someone else instructs you to do, you can do what you instruct yourself to do.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's obvious to you that what's right and what is wrong. But feeling you've got to be the judge and jury of the world is a heavy burden. If it's stopping you from communicating with people you care about, just drop it.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You take fun seriously, and why not? You pay money to experience more than you'd naturally be exposed to, and you want to get the most value for your dollar. Make an effort to talk to people you don't know.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have incredible intellectual powers. You learn quickly and have a terrific imagination. These gifts are best utilized when you've also got people around who will help you see your projects through to the end.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Success can be simple. Keep your objectives clearly in mind, and the "how" part of the equation is easy. A former flame wants to give the relationship another try. This satisfies your ego but probably not your heart.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Assert your independence whenever possible. Because of your perceived power, a competitor may unexpectedly withdraw, making you the winner by default. You will gain energy in social situations instead of feeling drained.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes

Jump Start

Zits

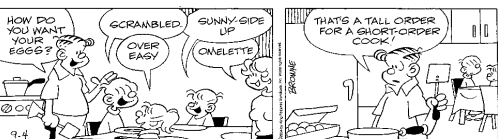
Cathy

Hi and Lois

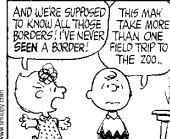
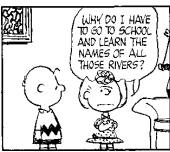
Beetle Bailey

Red and Rover

Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fortrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



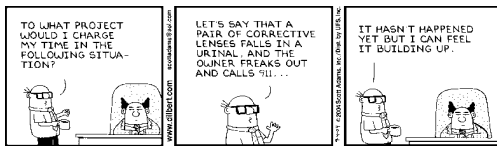
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



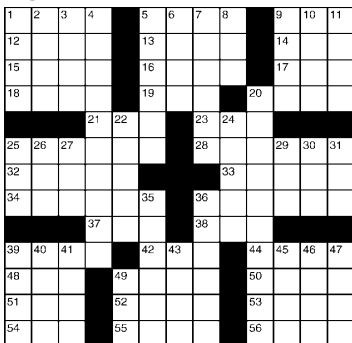
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Prelim to bone-breaking?
- 5 Tulp's earlier status
- 9 Uraeus
- 12 Cruising
- 13 Dual tool
- 14 Brooks or Blanc
- 15 Sartorial woe
- 16 Bentley's bonnet
- 17 Id counterpart
- 18 Nurse
- 19 Hostel
- 20 Winter prediction
- 21 Proscription
- 23 — Jim
- 25 English noble
- 28 Disagree
- 32 Duck
- 33 Mail unit
- 34 Chicken
- 36 Crammed
- 37 Pitching stat
- 38 Mess up
- 39 Unfriendly
- 42 Feathery accessory
- 44 Pedestal occupant
- 48 Shade
- 49 Saunter
- 50 "Unh-unh"
- 51 Nimby
- 52 Dot on a map
- 53 Recognized

Down

- 1 Steam engine developer
- 2 "Goltha"
- 3 Actor Penn
- 4 Tough and unsentimental
- 5 Losing
- 6 Fairy-tale preposition
- 7 November meteor
- 8 Foundation
- 9 Congregation's call
- 10 Lily variety
- 11 20-Across remover
- 20 Pops
- 22 Heat
- 24 More judicious
- 25 Possibly will
- 26 "— been working ..."
- 27 Chatroom chortle
- 29 Navigation hindrance
- 30 Antecedent
- 31 Roulette bet
- 35 Ohio River feeder
- 36 Sap
- 39 Fellow
- 40 Vote off the island
- 41 Not so much
- 43 — podrida
- 45 Finished
- 46 Tourney format
- 47 Lascivious
- 49 Oscar Wilde's sine qua non

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-4

CRYPTOQUIP

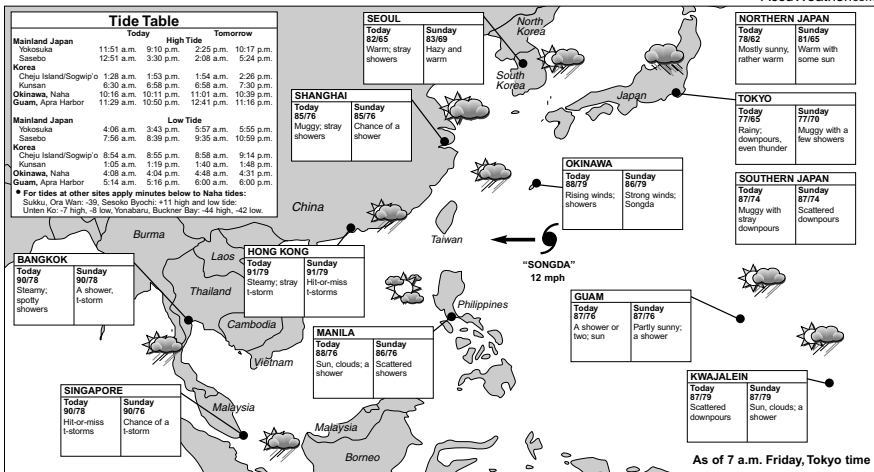
C Q U U D U Y C P F Y F B K A H C
T F M S O B D F Z F U T Z P H G C Q U
P B Y U . Q U ' T G B T U B K

F D D U A B D M Q H P C Y F P Y O F C .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE THAT NOURISHMENTS FOR SMALL CHILDREN COULD BE LABELED "FOOD FOR TOT".
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals L

The Pacific Forecast

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2004

AccuWeather.com



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
 Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine,
 high 82, low 73.
 Tuesday: Thunderstorms,
 high 85, low 76.

KADENA
 Monday: Thunderstorms,
 high 86, low 77.
 Tuesday: Showers,
 high 86, low 77.

SEUL
 Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine,
 high 85, low 66.
 Tuesday: Rain,
 high 79, low 63.

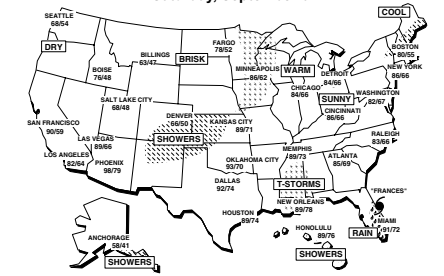
MANILA
 Monday: Thunderstorms,
 high 86, low 76.
 Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine,
 high 88, low 76.

HAGATNA
 Monday: Showers,
 high 89, low 78.
 Tuesday: Showers,
 high 87, low 76.

Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	86/60	Los Angeles	85/64
Amarillo	88/60	Little Rock	89/66
Anchorage	60/47	Louisville	83/68
Ashville	74/60	Miami	83/80
Baltimore	82/64	Milwaukee	85/63
Birmingham	88/69	Nashville	83/66
Bismarck	93/59	New York	79/64
Boise	71/43	Omaha	90/68
Boston	71/58	Orlando	92/76
Brownsville	89/74	Philadelphia	83/63
Buffalo	77/60	Phoenix	107/80
Burlington	69/63	Pittsburgh	81/60
Charleston, SC	85/69	Portland, OR	67/55
Charlotte	84/63	Portland, ME	68/50
Cincinnati	81/62	Salt Lake City	85/56
Columbus, OH	85/63	St. Louis	85/67
Duluth	83/60	San Antonio	90/68
El Paso	86/66	San Diego	77/65
Hartford	77/63	San Juan	93/76
Helena	67/38	Tampa	94/76
Indianapolis	83/65	Tulsa	91/67
Jacksonville	89/74	Washington	85/66
Kansas City	88/64	Wichita	91/65

Saturday, September 04



U.S. Extended Forecast

The very strong Hurricane Frances will affect portions of eastern Florida Saturday with very windy conditions and heavy rain. Meanwhile, a cold front moving southward through the Northeast will trigger a few showers in New England. Cool air from Canada will filter in behind this front. Mostly to partly sunny skies will be featured for most of the eastern half of the nation ahead of a cold front that will be draped over the Plains. Showers will occur behind the front along with a thunderstorm in spots. As an area of high pressure remains over the Northwest, chilly conditions will be felt. The Southwest will remain hot and dry, while unsettled weather will persist in the Southeast.

Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	90/78	Iwakuni	83/72
Beijing	85/69	Kadena AB	88/79
Camp Casey	83/65	Kunsan AB	85/69
Christchurch	81/63	Kwajalein	87/79
Diego Garcia	82/75	Manila	88/76
Hagatna	81/77	Masawa AB	77/64
Hanoi	87/76	Osan	85/65
Hong Kong	91/79	Perth	62/46
Honolulu	89/76	Pusan	80/70

Saturday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	85/65	Buenos Aires	85/65
Athens	85/65	Buenos Aires	85/65
Auckland	52/42	Cairo	97/69
Baghdad	114/78	Cancun	85/73
Barbados	89/74	Cape Town	70/41
Barcelona	79/67	Geneva	79/63
Berlin	77/61	Istanbul	76/58
Bermuda	85/72	Jerusalem	90/64
Brussels	79/60	Johannesburg	68/50
		Moscow	65/41
		Warsaw	70/51



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Sporting Goods 980

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Kidney, Oklahoma - 1 year old male puppy

People type for sale. See his photo and a video. Call 1-800-850-8500 or email: info@us666.com

Kidney, Oklahoma - 1 year old male puppy

People type for sale. See his photo and a video. Call 1-800-850-8500 or email: info@us666.com

Miscellaneous 1040

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Bryant case held flames from start

BY JON SARCHÉ
The Associated Press

EAGLE, Colo. — In essence, the writing was on the wall. The last-minute dismissal of the Kobe Bryant rape case followed months of gaffes by courthouse staff that put his 20-year-old accuser in an uncomfortable spotlight. A determined, well-financed legal assault from the NBA star's defense team also helped stop the trial before it began.

Legal experts say the prosecution also had a very difficult case to prove — a he said-she said in which the accuser told investigators she willingly flirted with Bryant and engaged in consensual kissing. Complicating the case was a defense expert who said DNA evidence showed the woman slept with someone else not long after leaving Bryant's hotel room. "What seems very apparent is the prosecution made mistakes early on," said Denver attorney Lisa Wayne, who has defended numerous sexual assault cases. "They never got to know this woman."

During a news conference, District Attorney Mark Hurlbert said he is confident that if a jury had been able to hear the alleged victim testify, Bryant would have been convicted.

"The prosecution wants to try this case. I want to try this case,"

he said. "Any time you see the defense ahead of the prosecution it can only be because the prosecution didn't want to know something."

"The prosecution said, 'Let's not do anything that could hurt us,'" Pozner said. "That's not a search for justice, it's a conviction-at-any-cost mentality. Sometimes the bravest thing you do is look at your police and say we don't have a case."

The case also was marred by a series of mistakes, many of them by people the woman's attorneys said she trusted the most.

The accuser's name was included in filings mistakenly posted on a state court Web site and a court reporter accidentally e-mailed transcripts of a closed-door hearing on the woman's sexual activities to seven news organizations, which published the details.

Within those transcripts was a prelude of what would have come at trial: Testimony from a defense forensics expert who said she was convinced the accuser had sex with someone else soon after leaving Bryant — a claim that goes to the heart of the woman's credibility and her image as a traumatized victim.

The accuser's decision to file a civil lawsuit against Bryant was another blow to the case, because it gave defense attorneys a chance to argue the woman had a financial motive to accuse Bryant of assault.

District Attorney Mark Hurlbert dropped the criminal case against Kobe Bryant on Wednesday.

he said. "However, the victim has informed us about much of her own labored determination that she does not want to proceed. For this reason and this reason only I am dismissing the case."

Wendy Murphy, a professor at the New England School of Law, Boston, said Hurlbert was just trying to shift responsibility.

"It's a different way of blaming the victim, it's the government sloughing off onto the victim the failure of the justice system," she said. "It's the prosecutor's job, it's the government's responsibility to pursue this."

Larry Pozner, a former president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, said prosecutors and investigators made a fatal mistake by arresting Bryant and filing the charge before having full knowledge of the alleged victim's activities and the DNA test results.

"The defense kept pulling in dump trucks full of evidence until [the prosecutors] drowned in bad

Many games, but few real contests

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

For the college football fan who can never get enough, this weekend is for you.

With the NFL season a week away, college football has practically taken over Labor Day weekend. Games begin Thursday night and continue

through Monday night. Top-ranked Southern California and No. 23 Oregon are the only Top 25 teams not in action. The one drawback is it's a quantity over quality situation.

There are few juicy matchups among the top teams. The third game between Miami and Florida State in less than a year, scheduled for Monday night but postponed to Friday because of Hurricane Frances, is the only game involving two ranked teams.

Most of the top teams will ease into their seasons by hosting non-conference games, though don't try suggesting that to the coaches expecting to ring up an easy win.

After re-playing a very, very formidable opponent, said Florida coach Ron Zook, whose 11th-ranked Gators open against Middle Tennessee. "A team that is used to being in these type of situations. Hopefully, our football team is prepared and ready to play."

Some of the other glaring mismatches include: No. 3 Georgia against Division I-AA Georgia Southern; No. 12 Kansas State taking on I-AA Western Kentucky; No. 17 Auburn against Louisiana-Monroe; and No. 18 Missouri vs. Arkansas State.

No. 20 Utah opened at home Thursday night against Texas A&M, while Mike Price was making his debut as UTEP coach against Arizona State.

Friday night is light, with Washington State at New Mexico the only game.

After a full load on Saturday, Sunday's slate is highlighted by Syracuse at No. 24 Purdue in the afternoon and No. 14 Tennessee hosting No. 24 Kentucky.

"My opinion is it would be a really nice to play at 1 o'clock every Saturday, but I think we also understand what it's about in this thing," Syracuse coach Paul Pasqualoni said. "To have that kind of exposure, there are some advantages to that so that there's a price to pay for the inconvenience."

Seminole-Hurricanes can be the college football feast.

Who needs the NFL?

The picks:

Thursday

Texas A&M (plus 8½) at No. 20 Utah After should be better in year two under Dennis Franchione... **UTAH 23-16.**

Saturday

Bowling Green (plus 32½) at No. 2 Oklahoma: Mo MAC magic here as Jason White begins promising Heisman campaign... **OKLAHOMA 34-14.**

Georgia Southern (no line) at No. 3 Georgia: One of Division I-AA's best against one of I-A's

best is no contest... **GEORGIA 34-7.**

Oregon State (plus 18½) at No. 4 LSU: OSU's sticky corners will be tough on LSU's new starting QB and receivers... **LSU 24-14.**

North Texas (plus 26) at No. 7 Texas: Longhorns are 7-0 against Mean Green... **TEXAS 27-7.**

Miami (Ohio) (plus 13) at No. 8 Michigan: RedHawks own longed winning streak in the country at 14... **MICHIGAN 34-14.**

Cincinnati (plus 15) at No. 9 Ohio State: Bearcats nearly beat Buckeyes in 2002... **OHIO 24-10.**

East Carolina (plus 28½) at No. 10 West Virginia: Mountaineers QB Rashed Marshall could run for 100... **WEST VIRGINIA 41-17.**

Middle Tennessee (plus 28) at No. 11 Florida: Gators opened season with 65-3 win over San Jose State... **FLORIDA 52-14.**

Western Kentucky (no line) at No. 12 Kansas State: K-State's fifth game in last three seasons against I-AA opponent... **KANSAS STATE 48-9.**

No. 13 California (minus 13½) at UC-Forest: Cal's option offense vs. Cat's balanced and versatile attack... **CALIFORNIA 27-17.**

UC-Forest (plus 11½) at No. 15 Clemson: Clemson's last loss was 45-17 to Wake Forest... **CLEMSON 45-17.**

Temple (plus 16) at Virginia Tech: Why are the Cavaliers playing at Temple?... **VIRGINIA 38-3.**

Louisiana-Monroe (plus 38) at No. 17 Auburn: Tigers opening easy after last year's 9-2 start... **AUBURN 50-10.**

Arkansas State (plus 33) at No. 18 Missouri: Tigers QB Brad Smith runs for 100 and throws for 150 — in about two quarters... **MISSOURI 48-10.**

Kent State (plus 30) at No. 19 Iowa: Golden Flashes have no shot without suspended QB Joshua Cribbs... **IOWA 36-7.**

UCF (plus 24) at No. 21 Wisconsin: George O'Leary will miss UCF's opener to attend the funeral of his 83-year-old mother... **WISCONSIN 24-14.**

Northern Illinois (plus 14) at No. 22 Maryland: Huskies beat Terps in DeKalb, Ill., last year... **MARYLAND 24-14.**

Tulsa (plus 11½) at No. 25 Minnesota: Rockets are class of MAC with QB Bruce Gradkowski leading the way... **TOLEDO 31-27.**

Sunday

UNLV (plus 10) at No. 14 Tennessee: Vols to start freshman QB — either Erick Ainge or Brent Schaeffer... **TENNESSEE 38-13.**

Syracuse (plus 12) at No. 24 Purdue: Kyle Orton is Heisman darkhorse for Boilermakers... **PURDUE 30-20.**

Thursday, Sept. 9

No. 5 Florida State (plus 2) at No. 6 Miami (Postponed, Hurricanes): Seminoles take early lead in ACC race against hated Hurricanes... **FLORIDA STATE 23-20.**

Case: Allege victim opts out, prompting dismissal of charges

CASE, FROM BACK PAGE

In this case, District Judge Terry Ruckriegle ruled that the woman's sex life in the three days surrounding her encounter with Bryant could be admitted as evidence, which may have bolstered the defense contention that she slept with someone after leaving Bryant and before she went to a hospital exam — a potentially key blow to her credibility. The woman's lawyers have denied the accusation. And after mistakes that revealed her identity, at least two death threats and relentless media attention, she apparently had had enough.

"The difficulties that this case has imposed on this woman the past year are unimaginable," said John Clune, one of her attorneys. He said she was particularly disturbed by mistakes including the release of her name on a state courts Web site and her medical history to attorneys.

Neither Bryant nor his accuser were in the courtroom as the judge threw out the case, blaming bad get cuts in part for a lack of courthouse staff and the mistakes.

Outside the courthouse, Hurlbert said the decision to drop the case "is not based upon a lack of belief in the victim — she is an extremely credible and an extremely brave young woman."

"A trial can be traumatic for any victim of any crime, more so with the victim of a sexual assault, and even more so with the victim of a sexual assault whose victimization was the subject to worldwide scrutiny," the prosecutor said.

Bryant said the civil case against him "will be decided by and between the parties directly involved in the incident and will no longer be a financial or

emotional drain on the citizens of the state of Colorado."

"I also want to make it clear that I do not question the motives of this young woman," Bryant said. "No money has been paid to this woman. She has agreed that this statement will not be used against me in the civil case."

Larry Pozner, a former president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, said he did not think Bryant's statement suggested an interest in settling the civil case.

"I would have guessed today would have been a global settlement (covering both cases)," he said. "If it isn't, it's because the defense has told them, 'We aren't paying you very much, and if you want to continue, bring it on.'"

The lawsuit, like the criminal case, accuses Bryant of attacking the woman in his room at the Cordillera resort near Edwards, causing her emotional and physical problems that linger to this day.

Prosecutors said Bryant flirted with the woman, a front desk employee, during a tour of the resort. After the two ended up in his room, they began to kiss, which she acknowledged was consensual. Investigators have said the encounter turned violent and that she told Bryant "no" at least twice.

In the civil suit, the attorneys said at some point during the kissing "Bryant's voice became deeper and his acts became rougher" as he began to grope the woman. She asked him to stop, but Bryant allegedly blocked her exit, grabbed her and forced her over a chair to rape her. Bryant's hands were around the woman's neck, the attorneys said — "a perceived threat of potential strangulation if she resisted his advances."

Major League Baseball scorecard

American League

East Division		L	Pct	GB
New York	82	62.1		
Baltimore	78	59.5	7.5	
Baltimore	71	46.2	21.1	
Tampa Bay	59	44.4	27.7	
Toronto	58	44.4	27.7	

Central Division		L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	74	56.1		
Cleveland	67	50.0	8	
Chicago	67	49.2	9	
Detroit	61	42.9	15.1	
Kansas City	57	41.9	17	

West Division		L	Pct	GB
Oakland	54	59.4		
Anaheim	75	55.8	3.5	
Los Angeles	68	50.0	10	
Seattle	51	38.8	20.7	

Wednesday's games		L	Pct	GB
Boston 12, Anaheim 7	2-1			
N.Y. Yankees 5, Cleveland 3	1-0			
Baltimore 8, Tampa Bay 4	1-0			
Chicago White Sox 4, Oakland 3	1-0			
Minnesota 4, Texas 2	1-0			

Thursday's games		L	Pct	GB
Oakland 4, Chicago White Sox 2	1-0			
Baltimore 10, Tampa Bay 2	1-0			
Anaheim at Boston				
Seattle at Toronto				

Friday's games		L	Pct	GB
Texas (Washin 2-10) at Boston (P. Martinez 14-5)				
Oakland (Hudson 10-4) at Toronto (Lilly 9-9)				
Anaheim (Escobar 9-8) at Cleveland (Leter 3-3)				
Yankees (Logan 10-8) at N.Y. Yankees (K. Brown 10-3)				
Baltimore (Maddux 7-11) at Tampa Bay (Kazmir 1-0)				

Saturday's games		L	Pct	GB
Kansas City (May 19-5) at Minnesota (San-15-4)				
Kansas City at Minnesota				
Kansas City at Minnesota				
Kansas City at Minnesota				

Sunday's games		L	Pct	GB
Oakland at Toronto				
Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees				
Kentucky at Tampa Bay				
Texas at Boston				
Kansas City at Minnesota				
Seattle at Chicago White Sox				
Anaheim at Cleveland				

Wednesday

Red Sox 12, Angels 7

ANALHEIM		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Ekstrom	3	11.1	1	0	2	4	0	0
Costa	5	9.0	1	1	2	2	2	0
Vogelbein	5	9.0	1	1	2	2	2	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adrian	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Boston		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Ortiz	3	11.1	1	0	2	4	0	0
Costa	5	9.0	1	1	2	2	2	0
Vogelbein	5	9.0	1	1	2	2	2	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adrian	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Totals		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Red Sox	35	111.1	12	0	28	4	0	0
Angels	35	111.1	7	0	21	0	0	0

Twins 4, Rangers 2		L	Pct	GB
Yankees	4	11.0	57.1	
Angels	4	11.0	57.1	
Angels	4	11.0	57.1	
Angels	4	11.0	57.1	
Angels	4	11.0	57.1	

Texas		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Ortiz	3	11.1	1	0	2	4	0	0
Costa	5	9.0	1	1	2	2	2	0
Vogelbein	5	9.0	1	1	2	2	2	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adrian	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Totals		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Texas	35	111.1	4	0	21	0	0	0
Rangers	35	111.1	2	0	14	0	0	0

Yankees 5, Indians 3

CLEVELAND		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Crisp	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lawton	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Totals		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Yankees	35	111.1	5	0	28	0	0	0
Indians	35	111.1	3	0	21	0	0	0

Detroit		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Totals		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Detroit	35	111.1	0	0	21	0	0	0
Indians	35	111.1	0	0	21	0	0	0

St. Louis		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Totals		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
St. Louis	35	111.1	0	0	21	0	0	0
Indians	35	111.1	0	0	21	0	0	0

Chicago Cubs		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Totals		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Chicago Cubs	35	111.1	0	0	21	0	0	0
Indians	35	111.1	0	0	21	0	0	0

Atlanta Braves		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Totals		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Atlanta Braves	35	111.1	0	0	21	0	0	0
Indians	35	111.1	0	0	21	0	0	0

Pittsburgh Pirates		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Totals		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Pittsburgh Pirates	35	111.1	0	0	21	0	0	0
Indians	35	111.1	0	0	21	0	0	0

San Diego		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ortiz	4	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Totals		ab	r	b	h	r	b	h
San Diego	35	111.1	0	0	21	0	0	0
Indians	35	111.1	0	0	21	0	0	0

Red Sox win for 14th time in 15 games

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Johnny Damon and the Boston Red Sox are putting pressure on the New York Yankees and pulling away from everybody else.

Kevin Millar homered and drove in four runs, Damon had four of Boston's 16 hits, and the streaking Red Sox beat the Anaheim Angels 12-7 Wednesday night at Fenway Park for their eighth consecutive victory and 14th in 15 games.

"They're going to be a force in whatever ballpark they're playing in," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "Right now they could play in the Grand Canyon and they're going to score runs."

Boston has scored at least 10 runs five times in 12 games. Every starter had a hit by the fifth inning and six players ended the night batting .291 or better.

The Red Sox remained just 3½ games behind the AL East-leading Yankees and opened a 3½-game lead over Anaheim in the AL wild-card race.

Mark Bellhorn, David Ortiz and Orlando Cabrera drove in two runs apiece for Boston, which goes for a three-game sweep Thursday night.

The Red Sox won even though Bronson Arroyo allowed five runs in 2½ innings, ending a streak of 41 games in which Boston starters went at least five innings.

Terry Adams (8-4) pitched 2½ scoreless innings for the win. Anaheim starter Aaron Sele (8-2) allowed seven runs and 10 hits in 3½ innings.

The Angels have lost three of four after winning nine in a row but are only three games behind AL West leader Oakland.

The Angels called up

AL Roundup

43-year-old first baseman Andres Galarraga from Triple-A Salt Lake, but designated hitter Tim Lincecum elected to have season-ending operations on his left knee and left shoulder.

Yankees 5, Indians 3: At New York, Orlando Hernandez allowed three hits in seven innings, and Jorge Posada hit a two-run homer.

Coming off their most lopsided loss ever in a 22-0 rout Tuesday night, the Yankees rallied when Posada homered against C.C. Sabathia (10-9) in the fourth. John Olerud added a solo shot later in the inning, and Miguel Cairo hit another in the seventh off David Riske.

Hernandez (6-0) was just the second New York starter to win in 17 games since Aug. 13. He struck out seven and didn't allow a runner past second base after the first inning. Mariano Rivera got four outs for his major league-leading 46th save in 49 chances.

Twins 4, Rangers 2: Terry Lefke hit a go-ahead, two-run double in his major-league debut to cap an eighth-inning rally and help Minnesota homestead against Texas its third straight loss.

Francisco Cordero (3-1) took the loss. He had converted 21 straight save opportunities. The Rangers dropped five games in a row behind Boston in the wild-card race.

White Sox 5, Athletics 4: At Chicago, pinch-hitter Ross Gload came through with an RBI single in the ninth, ending Oakland's eight-game winning streak.

Four men kidnap Urbina's mother

The Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — The mother of Detroit Tigers pitcher Ugueth Urbina was kidnapped by four unidentified men disguised as police officers, police said Thursday.

The men took Maura Villareal from a house owned by Urbina in suburban Caracas on Wednesday, said Joel Renfijo, director of the country's anti-kidnapping police force. The men have not contacted family members, he said.

The Tigers said Urbina had left the club to go to Venezuela, and the team is working with Major League Baseball and its Venezuelan contacts to assist the pitcher.

Barry Zito and the Athletics' bullpen failed to hold a 4-1 lead in the seventh.

Orioles 8, Devil Rays 0: Javy Lopez drove in four runs, Daniel Cabrera (10-7) became the first rookie to win 10 games this year and Tampa Bay managed only two hits in its fifth straight loss.

Blue Jays 4, Mariners 2: At Toronto, Frank Menchino hit a tiebreaking homer off Ron Volante (5-5) in the seventh, and David Bush (3-3) pitched seven strong innings to help Seattle snap a season-high, five-game winning streak.

Mariners star Ichiro Suzuki went 2-for-3, giving him 214 hits.

He has 30 games left to break George Sisler's major league



Boston first baseman Kevin Millar homered and drove in four runs in the Red Sox's 12-7 win over the Anaheim Angels on Wednesday.

record of 257 hits set in 1920 with the St. Louis Browns. Bret Boone hit a two-run homer for Seattle.

Royals 1, Tigers 0: Rookie Zack Greinke (7-9) retired his first 15 batters and allowed three hits in seven innings for home-standing Kansas City. Abraham Nunez hit an RBI single off Mike Maroth (10-10) for the only run. Jeremy Affeldt got his ninth save.

In Thursday's early AL games: **Athletics 4, White Sox 2:** Mark Redman pitched seven strong innings for his 10th win and Billy McMillon homered to lead visiting Oakland past Chicago.

Redman (10-10) became the fourth Oakland pitcher to reach double digits in wins, allowing four hits and two runs. He retired his final 13 batters, and the AL West-leading A's won for the 14th time in 16 games.

Orioles 13, Devil Rays 3: Miguel Tejada drove in three runs and Erik Bedard pitched seven impressive innings, leading visiting Baltimore.

Tejada increased his AL-leading total to 121 RBIs for the Orioles, who have won four straight following a 12-game losing streak.

Both French Open champs knocked out of U.S. Open

BY HAL BLACK

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The hard courts of Flushing Meadows claimed French Open champions Anastasia Myskina and Gaston Gaudio on Thursday when the winners of the Grand Slam clay court titles lost in the U.S. Open.

Myskina, seeded No. 4, fell to fellow Russian Anna Chakvetadze 7-6 (3), 6-3. Gaudio, seeded No. 9, was defeated by Thomas Enqvist 6-1, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Earlier, Lindsay Davenport's summer of success stayed on course while Justine Henin-Hardenne's was nearly derailed.

Two-time Open champion Andre Agassi was briefly in trouble, splitting the first two sets against Florent Mayer 7-5, 2-6. But after the sixth-seeded Agassi won the third set 6-2 and was leading the fourth 1-0, Mayer was forced to retire with a thigh injury.

The fifth-seeded Davenport defeated Arantxa Parra Santonja 6-4, 6-2 and advanced to the third round of the season's first Slam.

Top-seeded Henin-Hardenne survived a scare and held off qualifier Tripti Ozair 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

Myskina had all sorts of trouble with her serve, managing just 47 percent for the match and just 23 percent in the second set.

There were 37 unforced errors leading to an early exit for the player who won in with a chance to overtake Henin-Hardenne for No. 1 in the world.

Henin-Hardenne struggled with a viral infection that limited her summer schedule. But the defend-

ing U.S. Open champion warmed up for this event by winning the gold medal in the Athens Olympics, a victory that included a stirring comeback from being down 1-5 in the third set of the semifinals against Myskina.

There were more dramatics against the 31-year-old Brazilian, ranked No. 133 in the world and playing in her first Open.

Henin-Hardenne struggled with her serve, committing eight double faults and 47 unforced errors. She was broken seven times, once as she served for the match in the second set. She was shaky on some shots and sloppy on others and had an unexpected battle that stretched 2 hours, 14 minutes in the second round of the tournament.

"It wasn't my day today," Henin-Hardenne said. "I was out of my rhythm. She didn't give me a chance to get rhythm. Maybe I wasn't ready to play a lot of rallies."

In other early matches, No. 15 Paraden Srichaphan defeated Paul Goldstein 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-0. No. 31 Fabrice Santoro defeated Dimitry Tursunov 6-1, 6-3, 6-4. No. 16 Andrei Pavel ousted Fernando Verdasco 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (2). No. 19 Silvia Farina Elia defeated Katarina Srebotnik 6-2, 6-1, and No. 19 Nicolas Kiefer defeated Cyril Saulnier 7-6 (4), 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Also on the schedule for Thursday's fourth day of action were Athens silver medalists Nadya Pietrangeli and Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova. Night matches featured No. 1 Venus Williams and No. 3 Carlos Moya.

Three 4-2 teams make for tight playoff race

Stars and Stripes

Playoffs have proven to be a heartbreaker for the Misawa Marauders the past two seasons. They lost the 2002 U.S. Forces Japan-American Football League title game 16-6 to the Yokosuka Seahawks and faded in the first round last year 26-6 to the Kadena Dragons.

Assistant coach Thomas Mangani said he hopes the Marauders can get off on the right foot toward a second championship game appearance in three years by beating the Yokota Raiders in front of a Misawa Air Show crowd Saturday.

"In any sport, any team feels that there's a definite edge in having home field advantage," Mangani, who's been on the Misawa sideline in both their playoff heartbreakers the last two years.

"They should be really good turnout with the base here," he said, adding that with the stakes even higher for a playoff game than the regular season, "hearing the fans yell and scream is almost a 12th man on the field for us."

"At this point in the season, you don't get the 'W, you turn in your

2004 USJFAL final standings

	W	L	Pct.	PP	PA
Yokosuka Seahawks	4	2	.667	122.65	5
Misawa Marauders	4	2	.667	178.83	5
Yokota Raiders	3	3	.500	139.18	6
Atsugi White Dolphins	0	2	.000	185.52	4

Saturday, Sept. 4
Yokota at Misawa, 8 p.m.
Atsugi at Yokosuka, 8 p.m.
Championship: Torii Bowl, TBD

equipment Monday," Mangani said.

In Saturday's other playoff game, the five-time regular-season champion Yokosuka Seahawks, 4-2 like the Raiders and Marauders, host the 0-4 Atsugi White Dolphins. Gametime: 4 p.m.

"The tightness among the top three teams who each best each other at home makes this 'the best season we've seen in awhile,'" Mangani said.

"It's not just a 'Yokosuka's-gonna-blow-everybody-out' kind of season. You have three really competitive teams. And you don't want to count Atsugi out. With Yokota coming up here, we have a dog fight and I'm really looking forward to it."

RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Quietly making his point

Despite scoring changes, Kenseth still in hunt for Cup title

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

MATT KENSETH USED consistency to win his first NASCAR championship. His strategy was so boring, the sanctioning body changed the rules to prevent a repeat.

Kenseth, though, didn't change his style.

Now, in the ultimate revenge, Kenseth sits smack in the middle of the current points standings and well within striking distance of a second Nextel Cup title.

"That would be cool," Kenseth said. "That's what our goal has been all year ... to come back and try to win the championship under this new format."

The race for the title lacked drama last year as Kenseth, using a cautious and steady style, had a series-high 25 top-10 finishes in 36 races. Although he won only one race, he practically locked up the title in July.

Sure, other drivers were mathematically within reach of Kenseth, but with only two DNF's all season and a knack for finishing somewhere around fifth place every week, he basically ran away with the title.

Because the strident run of the season meant very little in terms of crowning a champion, NASCAR radically overhauled the points system it had used since 1975.

Under the new formula, NASCAR will take the top 10 finishers and reset their point totals after 26 races. The eligible drivers will be separated from first



Matt Kenseth won his first Cup championship with one victory and few DNF's. NASCAR changed its scoring to create a potentially exciting playoff chase, but Kenseth's consistency has him right in the thick of it again.

through 10th in five-point increments and compete for the title in a 10-race playoff format.

NASCAR denied Kenseth's boring title run was the reason for the change. He believes otherwise.

"NASCAR said they didn't change it because of us, but they did," he said. "It's more of a complement than anything. We did that good and the team did such a

good job of being consistent and not dropping out.

"We just didn't make a lot of mistakes last year, and it's hard to do it all season long."

With two races to go before the field is reset, Kenseth is in fifth place in the standings. If the playoffs began tomorrow, he'd be 20 points behind leader Jeff Gordon.

No one is sure what the correct strategy will be to win a title

under the new format. Some drivers will be aggressive, going all out to try to win all 10 races. Others will just try to stay out of trouble, fearful that one accident, one broken part, will instantly ruin their chance at a title.

"I think the guy who wins this thing is going to be the guy who can run fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh every week and doesn't have any DNF's," Kenseth said. "I

don't think it's going to be the guy who wins two or three races and drops out of two or three races."

"It's still going to be the guy who is most consistent."

It's not exactly what NASCAR had in mind when they overhauled the system.

Then again, it's not exactly the way Kenseth wants to win titles, either.

He prefers the old system, when the points leader is hunted by the other 42 teams in the garage. Being mentally strong and able to hold off the challenge week in and week out was an important part of earning a title.

"I'm a traditionalist, I liked the points the way they were before," he said. "It used to be you had pressure all year from Daytona to Atlanta. Now there is pressure to get into the top 10. Then, it's only the top 10 who have the pressure."

Still, it's hard to believe Kenseth and his No. 17 team didn't start the season feeling just a little heat to turn things up a notch. After winning just one race all of last season, they opened this year by winning two of the first three events.

Kenseth later added a victory in the annual all-star race.

But it's been a series of top 10 finishes since then, and Kenseth wants to ride them right into the playoffs.

"No matter what, you don't want to go into the last few races without any momentum," Kenseth said. "So more than thinking about making the top 10 these last two races, we're thinking about running good and trying to get to Victory Lane and carry some momentum into the last 10."

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 25: Pop Secret 500, 8 a.m. Monday (live), AFN-Atlantic.

Last race: Dale Earnhardt Jr. completed the weekend sweep at Bristol Motor Speedway by winning the Sharpie 500. Almost completely healed from burns he

suffered last month in a non-NASCAR wreck, Earnhardt led 295 of the 500 laps for his first Nextel Cup win at the track.

Last year: Inaugural race.

DRIVERS TO WATCH



Jeff Gordon is building a bit of momentum in this season but is looking for his first win. The fifth Cup title, has three career victories in California Speedway.



Ryan Newman has been hurt by his inconsistency in this season but is looking for his first win. The fifth Cup title, has three career victories in California Speedway.



Casey Mears is still mathematically alive in the title chase, but he really needs to make a move at California. The second-year driver is 250 points behind Newman for 10th place.



Nexel Cup qualifying record
Ryan Newman, 187.422 mph, 2002

Nexel Cup race record
Jeff Gordon, 150.032, June 22, 1997

FAST FACTS

Ryan Newman finished second at Bristol and jumped three spots to 10th in the standings. The 2003 champion is eligible for NASCAR's championship chase. Jeff Gordon won the Auto Club 500 at Fontana on May 2. Jimmie Johnson ended a streak place showing at Bristol. Rusty Wallace announced on Monday that he will retire after the 2005 season.

POINTS RACE

After 24 of 36 races

1. Jeff Gordon 3,380
2. Jimmie Johnson 3,356
3. Dale Earnhardt Jr. 3,305
4. Tony Stewart 3,195
5. Matt Kenseth 3,156

6. Kurt Busch 3,051
7. Elliott Sadler 3,019
8. Kevin Harvick 3,023
9. Bobby Labonte 2,918
10. Ryan Newman 2,919

11. Casey Mears 2,892
12. Mark Martin 2,868
13. Jeremy Mayfield 2,863
14. Dale Jarrett 2,873
15. Jamie McMurray 2,573

16. Casey Mears 2,528
17. Michael Waltrip 2,575
18. Greg Biffle 2,552
19. Sterling Marlin 2,546
20. Jeff Burton 2,529

BUSCH SERIES

This week: Target House 300 at Fontana, Calif. (Tape-delayed, 8 p.m. Sunday, SPT).

Last race: Dale Earnhardt Jr. beat Matt Kenseth in the first green-white flag race in series history to win the Food City 250 at Bristol Motor Speedway. Earnhardt started from the pole and led a race-high 125 laps, but a series-high 13 cautions extended the event by six laps.

Last year: Inaugural race.

Next race: Emerson 250, Sept. 10, Richmond, Va.

Fast facts: Earnhardt has two wins in four Busch starts this season. ... Greg Biffle won the Stater Bros. 300 at California Speedway on May 1. ... The series has never competed in the State College formula twice in one season. ... No polestar has won at California Speedway.

CHAMP CARS

Last race: Bruno Junqueira jumped back into championship contention with his win at the Molson Montreal Indy. Junqueira recorded his first win since last August and cut Sebastian Bourdais' lead in the standings to 34 points with four races remaining.

Next race: Sept. 12, Laguna Seca, Calif.

INDY RACING

Last race: Dan Wheldon captured the Firestone Indy 225 at Nazareth Speedway, extending Honda's winning streak to 12 races. Andretti Green Racing drivers swept the top three spots, a first by any team in IRL history.

Next race: Delphi Indy 300, Sept. 12, Joliet, Ill.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

Last race: Carl Edwards came from the back of the field and edged Shane Hurler to win the O'Reilly 250 at Bristol Motor Speedway. Edwards qualified any team in IRL history to make unproved pre-race repairs to his Ford race a spin on his second qualifying lap.

Next race: Craftsman Truck Series 300, Sept. 9, Richmond, Va.

FORMULA ONE

Last race: Michael Schumacher clinched his seventh F1 championship at the Belgian Grand Prix on despite not winning for just the second time in 14 races this season. Schumacher finished second behind Kimi Raikkonen, but still earned his fifth consecutive victory.

Next race: Italian Grand Prix, Sept. 12, Monza.

SPORTS



Can Southern Cal make it two straight?
See our 16-page college football overview
in Stripes Timeout

Bryant sex assault case dropped

Civil lawsuit still pending; Laker issues apology

BY STEVEN K. PAULSON
The Associated Press

EAGLE, Colo. — The sexual assault charge against Kobe Bryant has been dropped, but his accuser — whose reluctance to participate derailed the criminal trial before it ever really got started — isn't letting the NBA star off the hook just yet.

With jury selection under way, the criminal case was dropped late Wednesday by prosecutors who said the 20-year-old woman accusing Bryant of rape had decid-



Bryant

ed not to participate. Her exit followed gaffes that led to the public disclosure of her name and other personal details, and prosecutors said they would not carry on without her testimony.

But the Los Angeles Lakers star still faces her federal civil lawsuit seeking unspecified damages. That case is still on, said L. Lin Wood, the woman's attorney.

"There has been no settlement of the civil lawsuit, and there have been no discussions concerning a settlement," he said. The 26-year-old guard issued a written apology that stopped short of taking responsibility for his actions.

"Although I truly believe this encounter between us was consensual, I recognize

now that she did not and does not view this incident the same way I did," he said.

In court, one of the woman's lawyers, John Clune, said Bryant's apology factored into her decision to drop out of the case. Defense attorneys Pamela Mackey and Hal Haddon said the accuser "insisted on that statement as a price of freedom," according to a story posted on the ESPN network Web site Thursday.

Bryant tearfully admitted more than a year ago he had consensual sex with the then-19-year-old employee of a Vail-area resort where he stayed last summer. If convicted, the married father of a little girl could have faced four years to life in prison, or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine up to \$750,000.

Instead, prosecutors dropped the case after spending at least \$200,000 preparing for trial. District Attorney Mark Hurlbert said he could have won the case, but he supported the woman's decision to withdraw,

with a stipulation that charges will never be refilled.

"Today justice is sadly interrupted. The casualty in this interruption has been a brave young woman who was grievously hurt," Hurlbert said.

Victims' rights groups said the way the case disintegrated could force states to take another look at rape-shield laws, which typically bar the sex life of an alleged assault victim from being admitted as evidence.

Wendy Murphy, a professor at the New England School of Law in Boston and a former prosecutor, said the case could shake many women's faith in the justice system.

"The rules, the laws, the things that are supposed to make us treat each other with civility are a big joke, it doesn't matter," she said.

SEE CASE ON PAGE 27

Top seed survives scare in U.S. Open

Top seed Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium returns a shot against Tzipora Obziler of Israel during the second round of the U.S. Open in New York on Thursday. Henin-Hardenne won 6-2, 5-7, 6-2. Other winners Thursday included Lindsay Davenport, Paradorn Srichaphan and Nicolas Kiefer. See story on Page 30.

AP



Racing Stripes: New format can't keep Kenseth out of contention

Page 31



Wood shuts down Expos in Cubs' 2-1 win

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